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A sporting reshuffle

After Pele, could our sportsmen run Britain? **Leading article, page 13**



Ding-Dong Merrily

Carol singing a dying art? Bah, humbug! **p11**



All in the same boat

The QE2 fiasco gives Bernard Levin a sinking feeling, **page 12**

20p

THE TIMES

No. 65,145 FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 1994

Compensation could cost millions

Guinness case sent back to appeal court

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE cases of the four original Guinness trial defendants are to be referred back to the Court of Appeal because evidence that the men say is crucial was withheld from their trial, it was announced yesterday.

David Maclean, Home Office minister, has agreed to refer the convictions of the four — Ernest Saunders, 58, the former Guinness chief executive; entrepreneur Gerald Ronson, 55; stockbroker Anthony Parnes, 48; and financier Jack Lyons, 78 — to the court that could quash their convictions.

Mr Saunders, Mr Ronson and Mr Parnes all served prison sentences after the 113-day "City trial of the century", which cost £25 million. If the convictions are held to be unsound, the men could be entitled to millions of pounds of compensation for their suffering and the damage to their reputations.

The referral is a huge blow to the Serious Fraud Office which succeeded in obtaining convictions only in the first of three Guinness trials.

The first trial, which was started by the Crown Prosecution Service and completed by the newly formed Serious Fraud Office, was intended to send a tough message to the City about the SFO's determination to crack down on white-collar fraud.

A spokeswoman for the Serious Fraud Office said yesterday that it would be "strongly contesting" any argument that the convictions were unsafe or unsatisfactory. "We are not talking here about new material," she said. "This is unused material which at the time was not regarded as relevant and therefore not disclosed."

The Guinness case rested on an alleged illegal share support scheme during the 1987 takeover battle for Distillers.

The evidence relevant to the appeal came to light only on the 54th day of the second Guinness trial, which started in 1991. This trial involved Roger Seelig and Lord Spens, who were former directors of Morgan Grenfell and had acted as merchant banking advisers to Guinness.



Saunders: he was freed after being taken ill



Ronson: back working after six months in jail

The appeal evidence centres on a Department of Trade and Industry tribunal which sat in December 1988, where it was decided that there had been no "false market" in any of the transactions, including that of Guinness. The tribunal findings were not disclosed to the defendants in the first trial.

Lawyers for the four men say the evidence goes to the heart of their defence, showing that the Guinness share-support scheme was at the time of the Distillers takeover battle, for which the men were tried, was accepted practice in the City.

Lord Spens said in a recent letter to *The Times*: "I have little doubt that had this information been made available to all involved in these trials from the start, none of the defendants in the first trial would have been convicted."

He added that "the evidence obtained by the tribunal and its judgment were not revealed to the Bank of England, nor were they revealed to the inspectors conducting the DTI investigation until December last year. Suffice it to say that the second Guinness trial collapsed shortly after this revelation."

The head of the Serious Fraud Office at the time of the Guinness trial was John Wood, and the prosecuting team was headed by John Chadwick, QC (now a High Court judge) and Barbara Mills, QC, who is now Director of Public Prosecutions.

The four men's lawyers yesterday welcomed the referral of the cases, which comes nearly two years after they lodged an appeal to the Home Secretary on the ground that the evidence was not disclosed to them by the prosecution at the first Guinness trial in 1990.

Mr Parnes, who served six months in prison in California fighting extradition and then 11 months in Ford open prison, said yesterday: "I now believe justice will be done. I have lost my career and everything. I have always believed in my innocence. There is no way that I would have done anything dishonest."

George Devlin, the spokesman for Ernest Saunders, who in September won a European Commission ruling that he was denied a fair trial on different grounds, said: "I would say on behalf of Mr Saunders that he is delighted the Home Office minister has arrived at this decision which follows his own claim that his trial was unfair."

Gerald Ronson, the founder of Heron International, the once-thriving petrol stations and property empire that is now known as HNV Acquisition, was on business in northern England and was unavailable for comment. His legal counsel, Lord Mishcon, said in a statement: "Mr Ronson is very pleased that the Home Secretary has decid-

Continued on page 2, col 1

Takeover battle, page 2



FROM LUKATSKY/AP

Chechens carry a woman wounded when a wave of Russian jets bombed civilian targets in Grozny yesterday

Russian jets kill 27 in daylight strikes on Chechen capital

AT LEAST 27 people, including a young American photographer, died yesterday as the Russian air force took the Chechen war to the civilians of Grozny in a series of bombing raids.

The worst attack was a daylight assault on the Mikrorayon residential district. It had been hit the night before, when nobody had been killed. Yesterday, as local people sifted through the rubble and gathered to talk about the overnight raid, the aircraft returned to strike again.

Bombing continued throughout the day and evening, sending many citizens fleeing for shelter into their cellars. At least one bomb landed close to the presidential palace. In the morning, the pilots appeared to have been trying to hit an industrial estate near by, but local people insisted that there was no military target.

A group of Western journalists, including myself, had gone to the scene to view the previous night's damage, and talk to survivors. Two of us left after an hour, but three photographers stayed on to take pictures.

Paul Lowe, working for the Magnum photographic agency, described how he and colleagues were inside the ruins of a house when they heard the planes diving on them, and survived.

Their friend, Cynthia Elbaum, 28, was in the street outside. She was struck by a bomb fragment and killed instantly. A freelance photographer from New York, this was her first assignment in a war zone. She regarded it as a test, and remained in Grozny long after most of the Western press had left, showing great calm and courage.

The scene at the Mikrorayon after the air strike was horrific. The four bombs fell at an intersection, destroying cars and burning their inhabitants. We counted 12 bodies at the scene, at least one of them an ethnic Russian, Nikolai Sevashkin. We were told that five more bodies had been taken away by friends and relatives.

One of the cars had clearly contained refugees trying to leave the city, and their possessions were scattered across the road. Two of the bombs blasted huge craters in the roadway, wrecking cars and the facade of the nearby Oil Engineering Institute. Six passers-by were literally torn to pieces by the explosions, and several more badly wounded.

Among those killed in the air raid on Wednesday night was Saidsultan Khasbulatov, cousin of the former Russian Speaker of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov.

A Chechen and leader of the White House uprising against President Yeltsin last year, Ruslan Khasbulatov has been one of the leading opponents of President Dudayev, but has since come out strongly against Russian military intervention.

Last night President Dudayev appealed to the people of the neighbouring republic of Dagestan to revolt against Russian rule.



Anatol Lieven, the last British correspondent in the embattled city of Grozny, reports on the day Russian aircraft struck the streets

General quits, page 8

Richard Beeston, page 12

Spain's veto threat wins vote on British waters

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN was forced to accept last night that Spanish trawlers will be allowed into some of its richest coastal fishing grounds from 1996.

The struggle of William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, to keep the Spanish at bay — they have the European Union's biggest fishing fleet — ended when the matter was put to a vote in Brussels after fresh talks failed to break the deadlock.

Britain abstained, but all the other 11 member states approved the deal, which will allow up to 40 Spanish vessels into most of the waters around Ireland and off Cornwall and Devon. At present Spain is banned from these areas, which form part of a 92,000-square-mile protected zone known as the Irish Box.

The vote removes the threat to next month's scheduled entry to the European Union of Austria, Finland and Sweden, which Spain had said it would refuse to ratify if it did not get a satisfactory fish deal.

Spain did make some concessions, agreeing to stay out of the Irish Sea, the waters separating Ireland from Wales and northern England, and the Bristol Channel. Luis Atienza, the Spanish Fisheries Minister, said his country was entitled to full access to the Irish Box from 1996 for at least 70 boats.

Richard Banks, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "Any access for Spanish vessels is extremely dangerous. They have no respect for conservation rules and will displace our own fishermen in time." Earlier Mr Waldegrave had said he would vote against any deal that did not include protection for the waters south of Ireland and west of Cornwall and Devon, in addition to the Irish Sea.

Dublin paroles 39 jailed republicans

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IN AN important concession to the IRA, the Irish Government last night granted Christmas parole to nearly half of the country's republican prisoners. They are believed to include Tommy McMahon, who murdered Earl Mountbatten in 1979, and Pamela Kane, the only woman IRA prisoner in the Republic.

The move came as Sinn Fein criticised the Northern Ireland Office when fewer republican inmates than last year were paroled from the Maze, near Lisburn. Nora Owen, Ireland's Justice Minister, said 39 of the 82 republican prisoners would be freed, compared with 15 last year. Thirty were granted temporary Christmas parole, which can last up to ten days, while nine were freed until January 20, when she will review their release. The ministry said last month the nine would be freed permanently, but that was suspended after an IRA attack.

Mrs Owen said the move was designed to consolidate the peace process. In a message aimed at republicans concerned that the new Dublin coalition is pro-Unionist, she added: "There need be no concerns; my Government is working to consolidate this peace process."

Sinn Fein welcomed her decision, but the Rev Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist leader, called it outrageous.

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THE TIMES

30p ON CHRISTMAS EVE



SMART SHOPPER'S GUIDE

Last-minute gifts and where to get them: best books, wines, children's videos

VISION

Your 7-day guide to Christmas TV and radio

Trade balance in the black for first time since 1987

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, JANET BUSH AND PETER RIDDELL

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday hailed Britain's first trade surplus for more than seven years as crowning an excellent year for the economy.

He was given notice that his message has failed to convince the electorate however, by a MORI poll for *The Times* which concluded that he was the most unpopular Chancellor for 20 years, and that the public is now more hostile to government economic policies than at any time since 1979.

Mr Clarke seized upon the "first-class" trade figures, showing that exports outstripped imports by £846 million between July and September, to claim that if sustained the export boom would mean more jobs and higher living standards for all.

"British businesses are winning in the markets of the world," he said. "We are selling more goods and services abroad than at any time in our history. Output has grown by over 4 per cent, unemployment has fallen by over a third of a million, inflation has remained below 3 per cent for the longest period since 1961, and the current account is now back in surplus for the first time in almost eight years."

Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary, was even more effusive, calling the figures marvellous. "Everyone who works in a British firm or factory ... should feel very proud that they have played their part in achieving these record results," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

The Government's difficulties in winning credit for economic advances was emphasised by today's poll, however. The survey, taken last weekend, suggests that Mr Clarke is even more unpopular than was Norman Lamont after he had used his final Budget, in March 1993, sharply to increase taxes and to impose VAT on domestic fuel.

Two-thirds of Tory supporters are dissatisfied with Mr Clarke: Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, is perceived as the best Chancellor by a 3-1 margin over him. Nearly two-thirds of the public do not believe that the Government's policies will improve the economy.

The latest figures suggest that the public is giving the Conservatives no credit for the recovery and that people are deeply sceptical about ministerial claims. This is partly because living standards have been squeezed, but the poll indicates that the public does not think the present policies will produce an improvement.

Yesterday's trade figures, representing the first surplus since the first quarter of 1987, emphasise the rapid improvement in trade performance this year. The third-quarter surplus followed a deficit of £1.1 billion in the second quarter and took the shortfall between exports and imports for the year so far to £1.8 billion. In last month's Budget the Government forecast a full-year deficit of £4 billion, less than half of last year's £10.3 billion.

Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Today's figures leave us in no doubt that the economy is performing well ... They give no grounds for any further rise in interest rates, and every reason for rising confidence."

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BARCLAYS

Thatcher Cabinet and corporate espionage played roles in business saga

Takeover battle set benchmark for City aggression

BY GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

THE GUINNESS AFFAIR

ALMOST eight years ago to the day the City was stunned by an announcement from the Department of Trade that it *had appointed two inspectors* to investigate the affairs of Guinness. In April of that year the drinks giant had won a battle to take over Distillers, an ailing company which controlled more than half of the Scottish whisky industry.

The inquiry, made public just two weeks before Christmas 1986, shocked the City because Guinness had a top set of merchant bankers, Morgan Grenfell, was advised by the most blue-blooded of stockbrokers, Cazenove, and had one of the best teams of lawyers, Freshfields, at its disposal.

The Guinness affair was the first of the many high-profile investigations into suspected wrongdoing in the City and finance. It became the first major prosecution by the Serious Fraud Office, now nicknamed the Seriously Flawed Office. Guinness became unusual among SFO prosecutions in that some of the people under investigation went to jail.

Under the chairmanship of the Earl of Iveagh, a member of the founding Guinness family, the traditional brewer of Irish stout had become a fast-moving business. "If only we had done as much in our second hundred years as in our first hundred," Lord Iveagh told Ernest Saunders, who was head-hunted to become chief executive of the company.

The first aggressive move came in 1985, at the peak of the wave of takeovers that swept the City in the mid Eighties. Guinness made a £300 million-plus bid for Bells, the fiercely independent Scotch whisky group, which put up a magnificent fight from its Perth stronghold before succumbing.

Mr Saunders has since said that he believed the assault on Distillers came too close to the Bells success, but his hand was forced by Guinness dynastic ambitions and by the company's blue-chip advisers.

A Distillers takeover was first attempted by James Gulliver of the Argyll group, now owner of the Safeway supermarket chain but at the time noted for its ownership of Presto. But Mr Gulliver fell foul of the complex City takeover rules and left an opportunity for a rival bidder to emerge.

Distillers made a perfect target for Guinness, and Mr Saunders in particular. He had marketing flair and prowess for developing the international distribution network needed to expand sales markets. Distillers, though replete with household names such as Johnnie Walker, possessed neither quality.

City analysts predicted victory for Guinness during the closing stages of the bid in spring 1986 because of the remarkable strength of its share price. After a battle that many said brought a new and aggressive dimension to takeovers, the company duly claimed its prize.



Rowland: stood bail for Ernest Saunders

Stories about the taekover abounded. Advisers to one of the companies were spotted, dressed in dirty raincoats, at a press conference held by another and asked to leave. The pressure on financial analysts and journalists during the takeover bid was immense, with a daily bombardment of circulars, telephone calls, lunches and briefings. A key issue was how Scottish the Distillers company would remain after the takeover was completed. A public argument with Sir Thomas Risk, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, only served to heighten the tension.

Mr Saunders believed that Guinness's victory stemmed from a party held by Sir Gordon Reece, the well-known lobbyist, at which almost every member of the Thatcher Cabinet was present. "It was the busiest three hours of my life," Mr Saunders later said, "but I think I managed to get round them all." Also, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission voiced no objection to the deal after agreement was reached on disposing of some of the whisky brands.

The inquiry by the Department of Trade and Industry provided a spectacular sequel to the takeover. Television crews from around the world packed into London's Portman Square to film the comings and goings at the Guinness headquarters.

Shred by shred the financial media, independent of the DTI inspectors, began to piece together a credible version of what might have happened. Then, one night in January 1987, the Extel financial news service published a list of the names of several offshore companies that had allegedly channelled £25 million of suspect payments from Guinness. Speculation grew as the offshore names began to be linked, rightly or wrongly, to a number of well-known figures in the City.

The resignation of Mr Saunders came after a brutal meeting with the non-executive directors of the company. He was arrested several weeks later as he went to a meeting with his solicitors. His first court appearance was a celebrated affair. Gasps rose from the public benches of Bow Street Magistrates' Court when Tiny Rowland, the controversial chief executive of Lonrho, stepped forward to put up bail of £500,000 for Mr Saunders.

Guinness appeal, page 1



Lyons, left, who lost £3m and knighthood, and Parnes, who suffered the most

Health, wealth and the fine art of self-preservation

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND JON ASHWORTH

Ernest Saunders was jailed for five years at the end of the 113-day Guinness trial for playing a key role in the operation illegally to support shares during his company's £2.7 billion bid to buy Distillers. In the end he served only ten months behind bars, after his lawyers argued before the Court of Appeal that a long prison sentence would aggravate his pre-senile dementia.

On his release Mr Saunders appeared to make a miraculous recovery. Described during the trial as "a shambling figure of a man who has prematurely aged" Saunders, now 58, set himself up as a marketing consultant. He also lectures on business ethics.

Jack Lyons was fined £3 million for his part in the Guinness affair and stripped of his knighthood. His part in the Distillers takeover battle was to recruit people to buy Guinness shares; he also bought a substantial number himself. For his trouble he was rewarded with a £3 million fee, although he repaid nearly £2 million of it.

At his trial, he was told by the judge that he had escaped a jail sentence only because of his advanced age. He also successfully appealed against the £440,000 costs order against him.

Mr Lyons, now 77, retired to Switzerland. Described by his lawyers as likely to die if sent to jail Mr Lyons nevertheless appeared to make a full recovery.

Anthony Parnes, the former City stockbroker known as "The Animal" on account of his aggressive trading tactics,

THE DEFENDANTS

is widely considered to have suffered the most of the four original Guinness defendants. He spent six months in the notorious Terminal Island prison in Los Angeles fighting extradition, and went on to serve 11 months in Ford Open Prison.

Mr Parnes was forced to give up his £1 million neo-Georgian mansion near Regent's Park, central London, and split from his wife Denise, sister of Gerald Ratner, the fallen jewellery retail king.

Eccentric even by City dealing room standards, Mr Parnes is remembered for always being on the phone. While in prison, he spent a reputed £250 a week buying phone cards from other inmates to allow him to make calls.

Gerald Ronson has more reason than any of the others to be embittered. He worked his way up from nowhere to become Britain's 16th richest man, and could only look on in disbelief as he lost his empire.

Mr Ronson left school at 15 and went on to turn his Heron International into the UK's second biggest private company. He owned a Ferrari, a white *Rolls-Royce* and a *180ft* motor yacht.

Mr Ronson handled his six-month spell in Ford Open Prison well, working out regularly and losing weight. After his release, he spent more than a year persuading 82 creditor banks to agree to a £1.4 billion refinancing to save Heron from collapse. Since then, Heron has succumbed to an offer from American investors, but Mr Ronson remains involved.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council plans levy for community care

Middle-aged sons and daughters hoping to inherit the parental home could see their hopes dashed by a proposal to extend the charges imposed for community care. Hereford and Worcester plans to impose a legal charge on the homes of elderly people who are judged to need residential care but who refuse it. The charge would be collected from the sale of the home when the old person died.

Under the present system, the council can sell the home of those in residential care to recover costs. It claims that by extending this to community care, relatives will stop putting pressure on the elderly to stay in their homes.

Plane crash inquiry

Altimeters salvaged from the wreckage of the Boeing 737 that crashed on the outskirts of Coventry on Wednesday are being examined by accident investigators. On Monday the same Air Algérie aircraft was found flying at the wrong altitude over Essex and was in a near-miss with a Boeing 747. The investigators are confident that within days they will know why the aircraft crashed.

Police plea rejected

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has turned down a request for an extra £651,000 from Gloucestershire police to meet the costs of investigations into the Fred West case and the murder of a dozen women. Tony Butler, the chief constable, said last night that he was astounded by the decision, which would mean a further freeze on recruitment. The inquiry had already cost more than £1.3 million.

Triple murder remand

An unemployed man charged with murdering three people in the village of Bramford, Suffolk, was remanded in custody for eight days by Ipswich magistrates' court. Jason Mitchell, 24, of no fixed address, was charged with murdering Arthur and Shirley Wilson, both 65, between December 12 and 14, and his father, Robert Mitchell, 55. Reporting restrictions were not lifted

No bed for attacker

A judge yesterday jailed for life a "very dangerous" schizophrenic because no hospital bed guaranteeing total security was available. William Foran, 40, of Victoria, central London, who was jailed 13 years ago for the axe killing of his brother, stabbed a shopowner with a chisel in the back and chest. Minutes later he wounded a woman cashier in a nearby store. Southwark Crown Court was told.

Holiday trip 'disgrace'

Virginia Bottomley called for an urgent investigation into a plan by a private children's home to send 24 persistent offenders on a ten-day holiday to Norway next month. The Health Secretary said it was "an absolute disgrace". But staff at Winestead Hall, near Holderness, Humberside, said the children, placed there by local authorities, who pay the weekly fees of £800 per child, deserved it.

Loyalists jailed for life

Five loyalists from Belfast were jailed for the sectarian murder of Ann Marie Smyth, 26, a Catholic mother-of-two. The judge at Belfast Crown Court sentenced Samuel Cooke, 29, Graham Bingham, 24, and Stephen Manners, 32, to life with a recommendation that they serve 25 years. David Magee, 25, and Philip Murray, 29, will have to serve at least 20 years. Three others will be sentenced later.

Scott switches to ITN



Selina Scott, left, is returning to ITN as a news presenter after a 12-year absence. From January she will present ITN World News on the NBC Super Channel. Since leaving *News at Ten*, Miss Scott has become one of the highest paid women on British television, working on *The Clothes Show* and *Sky News*. She said yesterday she had always had a "soft spot" for ITN.

15 years for rail youths

Two teenagers were ordered to be detained for 15 years by Glasgow High Court after being found guilty of killing a driver and passenger in a train derailment. They had put a lump of concrete on the track. Gary Duncan and Craig Houston, both 17, were found guilty of culpable homicide, the Scottish equivalent of manslaughter.

Robbery with manners

Two men returned a stolen van with thanks and apologised for holding up a garage with replica guns, taking £2,700, York Crown Court was told yesterday. Andrew Done, 28, and James Jackson, 26, who admitted robbery, had given themselves up. Judge Herrod jailed each man for four years, saying it was the lightest sentence possible.

Crossword dates

The provisional dates for The Times crossword championship 1995 are: qualifier puzzle, Jan 19; eliminator, Feb 23. Regional finals: York (instead of Leeds) Mar 19; Glasgow, Apr 9; Bristol, May 28; Birmingham, June 18; London A, Saturday July 22, London B, Sunday July 23 (not July 8 and 22 as previously reported). National final: Oct 1.

Guinness case sent back for appeal

Continued from page 1

ed that what transpired at his trial will now be reviewed by the Court of Appeal."

Michael Wilson, of Stephenson Harwood, solicitor for Jack Lyons, said: "I am delighted and I am sure he will be when he hears the news."

Mr Saunders was sentenced to five years for theft, false accounting and conspiracy. The sentence was halved on appeal and he was freed after ten months, apparently suffering from pre-senile dementia, which he has shaken off. Mr Saunders is now working as a lecturer and consultant.

Mr Ronson returned to his desk after serving six months of a one-year sentence for his part in the share support scheme.

In the second Guinness trial, Mr Seelig and Lord Spens were accused of fraud and false accounting in the Distillers takeover battle. The trial was aborted after Mr Seelig, who was defending himself, suffered a nervous breakdown.

Clarke rated least popular Chancellor as poll highlights gloom on economy

BY PETER RIDDELL

KENNETH Clarke is the most unpopular Chancellor in the last 20 years and the public is becoming more pessimistic about Britain's long-term economic prospects.

A MORI poll for *The Times*, undertaken last weekend, shows that the proportion satisfied with Mr Clarke's performance is, at 17 per cent, a point lower than Norman Lamont's rating after his last, and most controversial, Budget in March 1993 when he announced big tax increases.

As reported in yesterday's *Times*, the latest poll puts Labour on a record 61 per cent, against 22 per cent for the Tories and 13 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. Half the middle classes now say they back Labour, as do an even higher proportion (57 per cent) of homeowners.

Mr Clarke's rating is much lower than those of Denis Healey, Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson, even during the economic crises of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Even two-fifths of the reduced band of Tory supporters are dissatisfied with Mr Clarke.

Labour's Gordon Brown is preferred as the best Chancellor by a three to one margin over Mr Clarke, 45 per cent against 15 per cent, with Malcolm Bruce of the Liberal Democrats on 7 per cent. Only just over a half of Tory *supporters say Mr Clarke* would make the best Chancellor.

As worrying for the Tories is that 64 per cent believe that, in the long term, the Government's policies will not improve the economy. This is much higher than during the depths of the recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s. Just a quarter of the public, and only two-thirds of Tories, believe that government policies will bring long-term improvements in the economy.

The public has also become more pessimisitc about the economic outlook next year. The economic optimism index, measuring the proportion believing that the economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next year, fell to -16 points, the lowest level since February 1993 and compares with index levels of around -5 to -6 points in recent months.

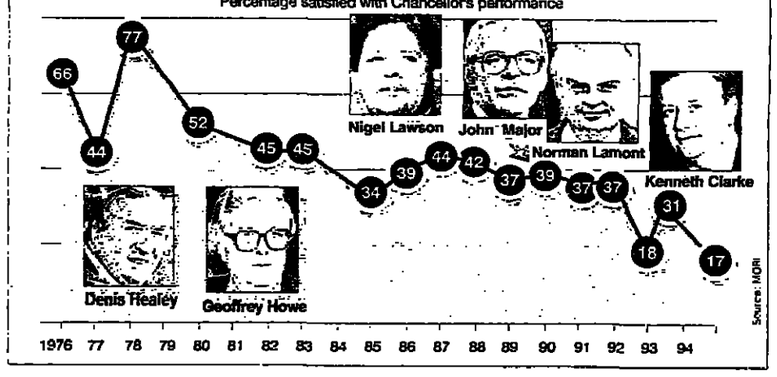
The public's pessimism contrasts with official government statistics pointing to growth of *more than 4 per cent a year* and steadily falling unemployment. But living standards are being squeezed, while the housing market remains weak and attitudes this month may have been affected by the latest rise in interest rates. The verdict on the Budget three weeks ago is also around the worst *since this question was* first asked by MORI in 1976. The net balance, between those regarding the Budget as a good or a bad thing for "you personally", is -52 points, *almost the same as after Mr* Lamont's last Budget in March 1993. However, the net balance regarding the Budget as a good rather than a bad thing for the country as a whole is a record -45 points. The previous lowest was -36 points in March 1993.

The public backs Mr Clarke's enforced decision to alter his Budget proposals after the Commons vote against increasing VAT on domestic fuel from 8 to 17 per cent. More than three-quarters would prefer an increase in tax on petrol, wine, beer, spirits and cigarettes, with just a tenth preferring the VAT increase on home heating fuel. Polls last year also showed strong opposition to the extension of VAT.

☐ *MORI interviewed 1,769 adults at 143 constituency sampling points on December 15 to 19. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.*

THE POPULARITY OF CHANCELLORS

Percentage satisfied with Chancellor's performance



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هكذا من الأصل

Boarding party offers refunds in attempt to avert threatened sit-in and lawsuits

Cunard chairman braves storm on QE2



Mr Olsen before boarding the ship in New York yesterday

BY TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE chairman of Cunard boarded the QE2 last night to face hundreds of angry passengers in a personal effort to restore the company's tattered public image and avert a threatened sit-in.

John Olsen joined the liner as it entered the Hudson River in New York at the end of a transatlantic crossing that has brought the company six days of unrelenting bad publicity. Passengers who paid up to £20,000 for Christmas cruises have complained about appalling standards on board the ship, which sailed while work on a £30 million refit was being completed.

Many are preparing to take legal action and one group, led by Peter Ludlow, was planning a sit-in last night in protest at having to put up with air cylinders, chicken wire and mattresses dumped outside their cabins. Before going aboard, Mr Olsen said: "I do not feel like Captain Bligh. I shall be talking personally to Mr Ludlow after which I hope his opinion will change."

Cunard has agreed to give refunds to all 600 passengers. Refunds and free holidays had already been offered to 500 others who were not allowed to board the ship when it sailed from Southampton last week.

Those who had endured the worst conditions on board, including swilling out lavatories with water from ice buckets, had already been promised unspecified compensation.

Mr Olsen was expecting to stay on board for 48 hours. Eric Flounders, a Cunard spokesman, said: "He will be there to personally intervene if problems arise and to discuss grievances on a face to face level."

The Cunard chairman faces a daunting task. Mr Ludlow, who had paid £7,000 for a Caribbean cruise with his fiancee, said yesterday the initial Dunkirk spirit of passengers had deteriorated and the ship had become "a floating Bosnia".

He and other passengers were demanding a personal apology. Cunard has not denied their complaints, which have included being asked to sleep on mattresses for the first night, having to negotiate decks that had missing planks, and having faulty lavatories from which soiled water has seeped into their cabins.

A group of holidaymakers led by an American law professor has instructed maritime lawyers in the United States to take legal proceedings against Cunard. One of the most crucial pieces of evidence in any court case will be the videofilms which passengers have made. Merilyn Wesley, 47, from Camberley, Surrey, said: "There are a lot of interesting home-movies here. They are going to make Cunard blush bright red with embarrassment. If Mr Olsen does not come up with the goods we are not getting off. There will be a sit-in."

Roy Fitzgerald, a lawyer with the firm of Fleming O'Brien Fleming in Fort Lauderdale, said: "I think you will find that the conditions for legal action may be more favourable here than in the United Kingdom. We have extensive experience in this field. What counts is that this is not just any ship. It is the QE2. It is the flagship."

Professor Christine Hall, 48, who is co-ordinating the legal action, said: "We will sue for everything we can get. The voyage is not getting any better. It is getting worse. Carpets are wet. Panels are hanging off walls. There I have rounded-up dozens of names of people who will join the action. This is going to be a very expensive trip for Cunard."

Contractors that were ordered to complete the work during the three-week cruise have told passengers that they fear the operation has been bodged. The plumbing is thought to have been completed in too much haste. At least two newly laid carpets are already waterlogged in some of the refurbished public rooms.

Cunard is consulting its lawyers and may take legal action against some of the contractors. At least one company, Trimline from Southampton, which was responsible for one of the plumbing contracts, may not be paid in full.

The QE2 crew, warmly praised by the passengers, have been donning boiler suits at the end of each shift to try to complete the work.

'It is amazing that we escaped. Nothing short of a Christmas miracle'

Three survive as gas blast and fireball destroy home

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A COUPLE and their son survived a gas explosion yesterday which reduced their 17th century cottage to rubble and engulfed the road outside in a fireball.

Stuart Roberts, 27, was seriously ill in hospital last night but his parents escaped with minor burns and singed hair from the blast, which happened at 3am while they were asleep. Investigators were uncertain whether a severely ruptured gas main was the cause or the result of the huge explosion, which lifted off the roof of the cottage on the A4175 near Keynsham, Avon, and left only one wall standing. British Gas said later it was believed a leak had occurred in the road near the cottage, but that the cause of ignition remained unknown.

Mr Roberts, who was taken to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol with spinal injuries, was dragged to safety by passers-by after he had been found by his mother lying on a mattress in the rubble, having been thrown clear of the house.

His father Alan, 54, a builder, and mother Rosemary, 53, who have two other grown-up children, escaped after waking to find a wardrobe and other debris pinning them to the bed. He said: "I don't know whether I was in bed or on the floor. My wife was lying next to me screaming and shouting. I managed to push the wardrobe off to release us and she ran outside to find Stuart.

He added: "I am totally devastated. Everything we have got has gone up in smoke. I've worked hard all my life to give my family a lovely home. It feels like my life's work has been wrecked in a couple of minutes."



Alan Roberts: "my life's work has been wrecked"



BARRY BATCHELOR

The scene after the cottage in Keynsham was ripped apart by an explosion. Neighbours felt the shockwaves

"I am shaken up but I am filled with joy that we escaped. It is amazing — nothing short of a Christmas miracle."

The couple, who also own a residential home, were treated in hospital for minor burns and arm injuries.

Smouldering cards and Christmas presents lay across the lawn as firemen, who said they were stunned to find survivors, joined officials from the Health and Safety Executive and gas and electricity companies to try to find the cause. A neighbour, Fred Matthews, said: "I was awoken by a thunderous explosion. It shook the foundations of my house 50 yards away. Ornaments came tumbling from the sideboard, the lights went out and my burglar alarm went off.

The explosion blew the front and back off the cottage and blasted two electricity poles out of the ground. A fireball engulfed the building, which stood in nine acres.

Inspector Phil Nicholls said: "The house has been totally demolished. It is amazing that anyone got out alive. It is an absolute miracle. We found the family strewn among the debris."

David Clarke, 17, and his brother Laurie, 19, of Bedminster Down, Bristol, were driving past and stopped to help. David said: "It was an horrific sight. We saw this poor bloke lying in the road, crying 'Help! Help!' He was on top of a mattress in a pile of rubble. It was on fire and he was very badly burnt. If we hadn't put the fire out and dragged him off the mattress he might have been engulfed in flames. We pulled him from the rubble and covered him in coats."

Girl of seven left alone with dying mother

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD girl is being comforted by her foster parents after spending the weekend with her mother as she sat dying in an armchair. Charlotte Fowlin raised the alarm on Sunday morning when she told a friend: "I can't wake mummy up. I think she's dead."

Charlotte had walked home from school on Friday evening after Angela Fowlin, 37, who suffered from a debilitating illness, failed to collect her for a regular weekend visit. When she arrived at the flat, her mother was too weak to cook a meal, and Charlotte made a bed for herself on the sofa so she could be close to her. She kept the television and heating off because she knew her mother was trying to save electricity.

On Sunday morning, Charlotte went to tell a friend, Claire Doward, 7, that her mother would not wake up. "I said 'Put your hand over her mouth to see if there is any hot air coming out'," Claire said. "When there wasn't we told my mummy and she called the police."

When an ambulance arrived at Mrs Fowlin's flat in Northam, Southampton, she was dead. A post-mortem examination failed to establish the cause of death, but police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Fred Doward, 47, a shot blaster, yesterday criticised social workers for failing to tell neighbours how ill Mrs Fowlin had become. "We had no idea that Angela was as bad as she was," he said. "Charlotte knew that her mother was dead but the full effect hadn't really hit her. I'm sure it will, especially over Christmas.

"We are very shocked but also outraged that this could happen. No way should social services have allowed a seven-year-old child to be with just her mum when she was so ill.

"If social services had told any friends or neighbours what was happening we could have kept an eye out and maybe stopped this tragedy. The poor little girl was starving, she hadn't eaten all weekend because she said her mum was too ill to cook. We cooked her a Sunday dinner and she couldn't eat it fast enough."

Hampshire County Council said that a social worker had visited Mrs Fowlin, who suffered from lupus, a rare blood disorder, the week before her death, but did not realise how ill she was.

The social services defended its decision to allow Charlotte to visit her sick mother at weekends. "There was nothing Angela wanted more than to be able to care for Charlotte, but as her illness took hold it became more difficult.

"We handled this very softly. Angela knew she was dying. Unfortunately the illness progressed at a much faster rate than doctors predicted, and she died suddenly."

What goes bang and makes the Chinese groan?

BY ALAN HAMILTON

OH MOTHER, listen to this. What's black and white and has eight wheels? Well, if you don't know, there is precious little chance that one billion Chinese will get it either.

Britain is this Christmas celebrating a new export triumph — the sale of exceedingly bad jokes to China. The Chinese, who are traditionally credited with inventing everything that goes bang, have taken to the traditional English cracker. As have the Hungarians, the French and the Americans.

Tom Smith, the Norwich-based manufacturer which claims to be the world's oldest and biggest cracker producer, with an annual output of 45 million, reports that exports have risen by 30 per cent in the past year. "We always regarded the cracker as a uniquely British institution, but it appears that something brightly coloured that makes a noise, you can pull apart, and has a surprise inside has a wider appeal," a company spokesman said.

Fair enough, but what about those appalling jokes? "The same terrible jokes go into all our crackers, whatever market they sell in, and they are all in English. We have no idea what the Chinese make of them."

Not much, one suspects. What do you call a sheep with a ribbon tied round it? Rambo. Ram-bow. Get it? What do you get if you walk under a cow? A pat on the head. Oh boy, they'll be slapping their thighs on the streets of Peking tonight.

The company explains that the jokes have to be non-sexist, non-racist, non-religious, non-offensive and non-controversial. Perhaps it is not surprising that they are also non-funny.

Britain remains by far the largest market for the traditional cracker, with annual sales of 150 million worth £55 million. The manufacturers swear they refresh their jokes every couple of years. The Chinese will be mightily relieved to hear that.

Black and white with eight wheels? Why, a nun on roller skates, of course.

THE TIMES
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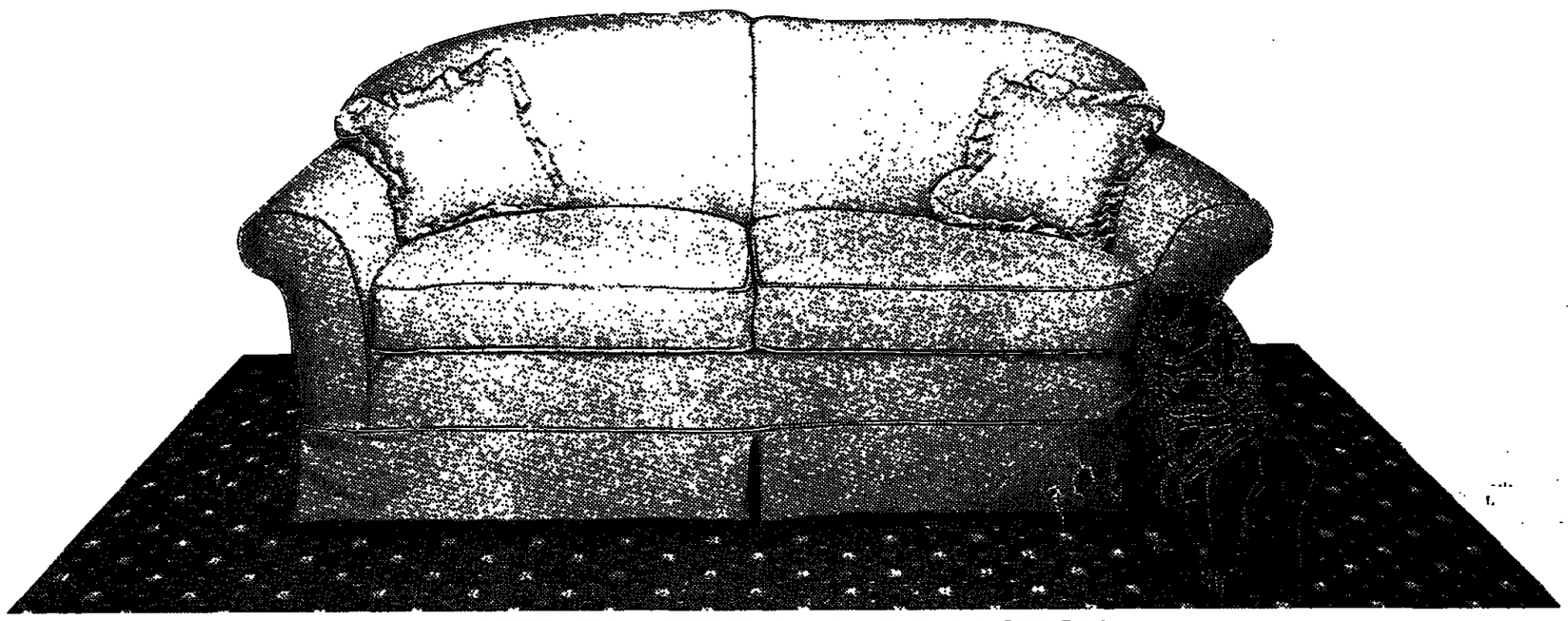
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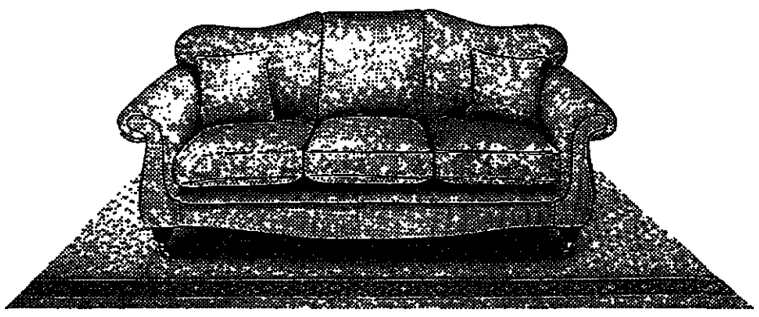


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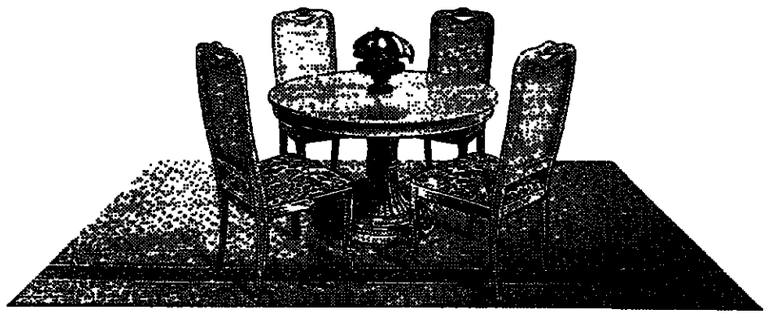
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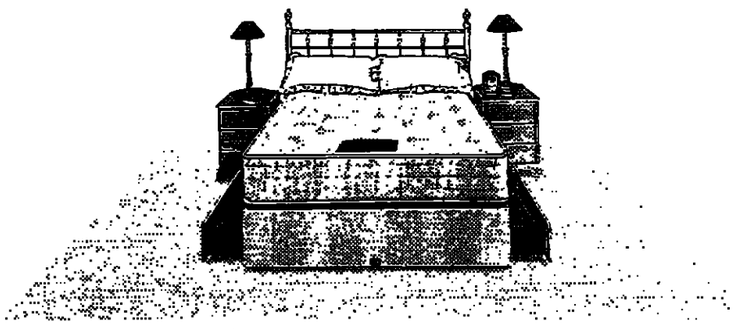
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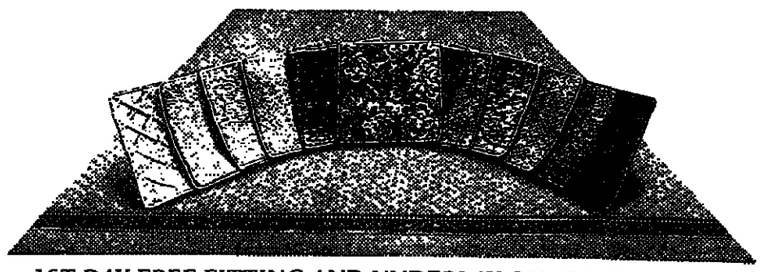
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Maori hitwoman wins mercy by aiding prosecution

BY STEWART TENDLER

A YOUNG Maori woman who shot dead a London businessman in a hospital corridor for a fee of £7,000 was jailed for life yesterday.

Te Rangimaria Ngarimu, 28, pleaded guilty to murdering Graeme Woodhatch, a roofing company boss she had never met. But she is unlikely to serve the 20 years in prison normally imposed on contract killers because she became a witness for the Crown. In the light of her co-operation, the judge decided against recommending a minimum sentence.

The killing, in May 1992 at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north London, was set up by Mr Woodhatch's colleagues Deith Bridges, 22, a New Zealander, and Paul Tubbs, 36. The two men had fallen out with Mr Woodhatch after they became convinced he was defrauding the company.

Bridges and Tubbs were jailed for life by the Old Bailey on Saturday for conspiracy to murder. The judge recommended that Bridges serve 15 years and Tubbs 16 years before they become eligible for parole.



Ngarimu: unlikely to serve 20 years in jail

Ngarimu was said to have been infatuated with Bridges, but Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, told her: "The obvious motive was payment of money and the act was carried out in cold blood." He said he was quite satisfied that she was influenced by Bridges but she had been ready to give evidence "of crucial importance" against him and of some importance against Tubbs.

"That is the reason which justifies a substantial reduction in the figure which would otherwise be recommended to the Secretary of State." The judge said that he would normally recommend that "someone employed to kill" should serve a minimum sentence in excess of 20 years. Because Ngarimu had given evidence for the prosecution he would not do so.

Ngarimu showed no emotion as she was led to the cells. Her counsel, Oliver Blunt, QC, said that she was a sinner but not without hope of salvation. "That is something with which she consoles herself as she lives in the shadow of what she has done."

During the trial the court was told that the two men wanted to kill Mr Woodhatch because they believed that he was swindling the company. Bridges decided to act when Mr Woodhatch went into hospital for an operation.

Bridges hired Ngarimu, who wanted money to buy a mobile home, to do the killing. He gave her a gun and a photograph from which to identify her victim, and suggested that she disguise herself in men's clothing. She later said: "Something just snapped. I shot him in the face. The last position I saw him in he was on the floor. He was rolling around screaming. He had his hands over his face."

Within hours she flew home to New Zealand from where Scotland Yard tried to extradite her. She decided to give herself up after visiting a church in Auckland. She later said a great weight had been lifted off her shoulders and she knew she had to return to Britain.

Detectives are puzzled as to why she agreed to the murder. "It requires very cold, raw courage and very few people have it," one police officer said.

'Nice girl' who became a killer

FROM MIKE MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

THE tiny community of Otira, on New Zealand's South Island, is trying to come to terms with how "a very good girl from a good family" turned into a hitwoman.

Natalie Evans, a justice of the peace and family friend of Te Rangimaria Ngarimu, said: "You would never have thought that this would happen to her but you don't know what sort of company they are going to keep when they go away."

A resident of the 40-strong railway settlement described Ngarimu's father, Harold Ngarimu, a goods train driver, as a "fine, upstanding man". There was nothing out of the ordinary about Ngarimu's childhood. She attended the local school before going to St Margaret's College, an Anglican boarding school in Christchurch. Cynthia Blair, the headmistress at the time, said Ngarimu was a very nice girl and popular with fellow students. She had been an excellent sportswoman, particularly at netball, athletics and swimming.

"I seem to remember she took up more time doing that than she did studying," Miss Blair said. But she could not recall Ngarimu being in "any difficulties of any sort".

Mrs Evans said Ngarimu later travelled abroad, working in bars to pay her way. Otira people had "pretty much lost touch with her" before she returned home suddenly after the shooting in May 1992. She stayed only a few months before flying back to Britain to confess to her crime after reading the Bible and "finding God".



Workers leaving the Bryant and May factory in Garston, Merseyside, for the last time yesterday

Imports blamed as light goes out in last British match factory

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE last match factory in Britain closed yesterday, forced out of business by cheap imports.

For Bryant and May — motto, "Let there be light" — economic history had come full circle. The company began life importing matches from Sweden, and set up its own factories when demand outstripped supply. Now, its five brands — including Swan Vesta and Blue Bell — will be produced in Sweden by Swedish Match, a subsidiary of Volvo which took over Bryant and May in 1988.

The demise of the Bryant and May factory in Garston, Liverpool, marked the end of 151 years of production in this country and 72 years at the Merseyside site.

At its height the Merseyside factory employed more than 800 people, but yesterday only 124 workers remained to collect their redundancy payments.

The removal of excise duty last year from matches and lighters imported from abroad, fewer smokers and a Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruling barring the company from price increases from 1992, have all contributed to the closure of the factory.



Victorian staff fought hard for better wages

Gaynor Coldrick, Bryant and May personnel manager, said: "The market has been flooded with matches and lighters from abroad. It is a very sad day, and people around here say that Garston is Bryant and May. The workforce have been treated very fairly but nevertheless it doesn't alter the fact that they are losing their jobs. There will be a lot of tears here today."

Andy Verdeille, a regional GMB union organiser, said the Government had shortsightedly turned its back on the industry: "People will continue to purchase matches, but every match bought in the UK will now be made overseas," he said. "The GMB has campaigned vigorously to try to maintain the industry but the Government has shown very little interest indeed."

The Bryant and May match girls' strike in 1888, at their Bow factory in the East End of London, became a *cause célèbre*. It was primarily a protest against low wages but galvanised a national debate on bad working conditions and poverty among the low-paid.

A settlement was eventually reached with the match girls and the Union of Women Matchmakers, the first women's trade union, was recognised.

Despite the strike the company, established by two Quaker merchants, has had a good reputation as an employer. The firm was among the first to provide pension plans and a workers council and current wages were high for the area.

The future of the factory buildings and grounds, for sale, is uncertain. When Bryant and May's Bow factory closed it was converted into loft-style flats, complete with communal gymnasium, swimming pool and shop.

THE TIMES

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Study puts lefthanders in the right

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

LEFT-HANDED people can relax: they are likely to live at least as long as their right-handed counterparts, unless there is a war. The conclusion comes from a study of nearly 6,000 first-class cricketers born between 1840 and 1960, carried out by researchers from Durham University and St George's Hospital Medical School in London.

Some American studies of baseball players had shown that lefthanders died young, possibly because they were more prone to accidents. Other American studies showed no such evidence, so Professor John Aggleton and colleagues turned to cricket to settle the question.

Cricketers are an excellent population sample to study, with 200 years of records and unambiguous evidence of handedness because it is rare for a bowler to bowl in any way but the most natural. Batsmen do sometimes teach themselves to bat right-handed even if they are left-dominant, and vice versa.

Just over 18 per cent of the cricketers studied were left-handed. Analysis showed that they lived just as long, on average, as righthanders if the effects of death in war were excluded. For reasons not clear, lefthanders were slightly more likely to die on the battlefield. The scientists suggest in the *British Medical Journal* that this may be because equipment and training are designed for righthanders. Earlier studies probably reached different conclusions because they were based on age at death and did not include data on those still alive. This is significant because the number of left-handed people has gradually increased as a result of more tolerant attitudes.

Older lefthanders were often browbeaten into changing to right-hand dominant, which means there are relatively few elderly lefthanders left. Any comparison using the average age of death in 1994 will come to the wrong conclusion because it is weighted by the preponderance of elderly right-handed people.

THE TIMES·DEMOS

Creativity and Leadership by Howard Gardner

READERS are invited to the first in a series of The Times/Demos Millennium lectures to be held during 1995.

The inaugural lecture, Creativity and Leadership, will be given by Howard Gardner, a Harvard professor, who first made his name with the theory of multiple intelligences which revolutionised ideas about human potential.

In his lecture, Professor Gardner will be looking at the creativity and effectiveness in leadership, examining the characteristics of past leaders, such as Margaret Thatcher and De Gaulle, and setting out the qualities which make leaders successful in the future. Chairing the event will be Lord Young, Chairman of Cable and Wireless Plc.

The lecture will be held on Monday January 9, 1995, at 7.30pm, at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street, Westminster, SW1.

Tickets, priced £8 (£5 for students), are available by completing the coupon below and sending it to Joanne Oliver, Town House Publicity, 45 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1QB.

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W	N	E	S
Thompson	Mrs Landy	Carlisle	Elliott
—	1♠ (1)	1♠ (2)	Pass (3)
3♠ (4)	Pass	Pass	3NT (5)
All pass			

Opening lead: ♠6

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This was a hand from the quarter-finals of the 1994 Gold Cup, between Frosztega's team (playing North-South) and Smerdon's team. I think it is amusing because it illustrates the price that tournament players pay for using Double in an exclusively take-out manner.

The bidding:

1. Strong Club, showing 17 HCP balanced or 16 with a good suit.
2. Some players hold to the theory that you must *always* bid spades over a strong Club if you have them — the idea is that the pre-emptive effect is worth the risk.
3. Showing either 0-4 any shape, or 10+ balanced.
4. Pre-emptive. He certainly must know his partner; many players would consider this full value for a pre-emptive raise to Four Spades.
5. Apparently Double would now show the 10+ balanced, not necessarily penalty-oriented (although Elliott now assures me they have changed the method).

Three Spades Doubled might easily have gone five off. In 3NT Elliott sensibly played ace and another diamond after winning the first spade in hand, ensuring three spade tricks, one heart, three diamond and two club tricks.

The Frosztega team went on to the final where they lost to Tredinnick.

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Bargains in bubbly put nation in party mood



Buyers are being tempted by offers on champagne

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND RICHARD LAWSON

WINE stores, off-licences and supermarkets say they are selling more champagne than ever this Christmas, with many customers choosing expensive marques.

Drinkers can take advantage of special offers and buy in bulk — Oddbins is running a "buy six, get one free" offer on several of their champagnes, including Lanson Black Label at £16.49 and Louis Roederer at £20.99.

The Victoria Wine Company's most popular champagne this season is a Moët et Chandon Brut Imperial at £17.99, and its Bollinger champagne at £22.99 is also selling well. Victoria Wine's bargain champagne is Jacques Monteau at £9.99.

For extravagance, you could try a bottle of Crut Clos du Mesnil, the most expensive champagne at Harrods this year at £175 a bottle. Sainsbury is offering a gift pack of 3½ bottles of Mercia champagne for £28.95, and its Blanc de Noire has been reduced from £11.95 to £9.95.

For party wines, Oddbins has the pleasantly fruity Santa Carolina Sauvignon Blanc at £3.99, and Victoria Wine a Maison la Motte sparkling Chardonnay at £6.99. Waitrose has Seaview sparkling Australian dry wine at £5.99. Oddbins is also offering a saving of £10 if you buy two Springbank, Longmorn, Dalmore or Bruichladdich whiskies (from £18.99 to £36 a bottle).

There are plenty of bargain alternatives for the Christmas table, including British leg of pork down by 60p per lb to 89p a lb at Sainsbury and fresh British beef mini-bone forerib at £1.98 a lb at Somerfield.

Mince pies can be found for less than 70p for 6 at Asda, Safeway and Sainsbury. Kippers are available at about £1.50 a lb, while farmed salmon, a good choice for buffet lunches, is still at bargain prices everywhere.

Advertised best buys include:

Asda: pork leg at 99p a lb; 375g Matthew Walker Christmas pudding, 99p.

Budgens: Richmond sausages, 79p a 1lb pack; 12 fresh eggs, 89p; four-pack of Ski diet yogurts, 79p.

Harrods: fresh Clifton cheese, £2.50 each; Rebelchon cheese, £9.20 each.

Iceland: prawns, £2.98 for 400g; white chocolate gateau, £2.99; petit pois, 99p for 2lb.

Marks and Spencer: eight profiteroles, £1.69; Desroches champagne, £11.99.

Safeway: topside, siverside, top rump, £1.98 a lb; 550g raspberry cheesecake dessert £1.40.

Sainsbury: double cream, 59p for 10fl oz; Brussels sprouts, 69p for 1kg; Jacobs Twiglets, £1.59 for 200g.

Somerfield: selected potatoes, £1.09 for 5kg; 8in quiche lorraine, £1.19; three-litre Blacksmith's cider £2.59.

Tesco: thin sliced British ham, £1.25 for 227g; iceberg lettuce, 65p; dairy vanilla ice cream, £1.69 for 2 litres.

Waitrose: British beef fillet steak, £6.99 a lb; redcurrant and port jelly, 79p for 340g; clementines, £1.99 for 2 kilos.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Bestselling champagnes and sparkling wines:

1 Perrier Jouët £16.99
2 Henri Harlin £9.99
3 Cuvée Napa Brut (Californian) £8.99
4 Montana Lindaver Brut (New Zealand) £8.99
5 Heidseck Dry Monopole £11.99
6 Mumm Cordon Rouge £17.49
7 Lanson Black Label £16.49
8 Louis Roederer £20.99
9 Seppelt Premier Cuvée (Australia) £6.49
10 Cuvée Napa Rose (California) £8.99

Ceasefire tempts shoppers back to Belfast

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTMAS shoppers who shunned Belfast before the IRA and loyalist ceasefires have been flocking to the city centre since the truces. Traders say that business has increased by 30 per cent in some shops, which have been packed this week with late-night shoppers.

The ceasefires have also encouraged more people to return home to Ulster for Christmas from mainland Britain. Belfast International Airport reported a 20 per cent increase in passengers from the mainland, and ferry companies said they were fully booked.

Last year visitors stayed away from Belfast, suffering some of Ulster's worst violence, but last night hundreds of shoppers gathered outside the City Hall, which is bedecked with Christmas decorations, for a firework display set to music.

Security guards, who used to check people's bags at the entrance to every large store, now concentrate on more conventional duties such as chasing shoplifters. Vehicle checkpoints, which used to be deployed at every major entrance to the city, have disappeared and soldiers are a rare sight.

Frank Caddy, the chairman of the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, said yesterday: "Belfast is the commercial capital of Northern Ireland and has been the principal terrorist target for 25 years. Lift that veil of hassle and you have a great shopping place."

Sir Hugh Annesley, the RUC Chief Constable, underlined the changes in Northern Ireland when he described 1994 as a momentous year for the province. The Most Rev Robin Eames, the Primate of the Church of Ireland, said in his Christmas message that Northern Ireland had taken major steps in the last year.

"Few could have dreamed a year ago, as we prayed for peace, that the fragile movement towards real peace which we see today could have happened," Dr Eames said. But he added that the province faced a long hard road with "difficulties, obstacles and problems".

Leading article, page 13

Oppenheim costs rise as Tunnel trippers let the train take the strain of seasonal spending

Average Christmas shopping bill tops £200 for first time

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE cost of the average family's Christmas has exceeded £200 for the first time. According to an index devised by a Conservative MP who became a consumer affairs minister and chairman of the National Consumer Council, the bill will be £200.45.

When the figures were first calculated, for 1973, by the Gloucester MP Sally Oppenheim, now Baroness Oppenheim-Barnes, the total cost of providing two adults and two children with her vision of appropriate seasonal cheer was £34.89½. She produced the costed shopping list in 1977, when she claimed that under a Labour government the cost of Christmas had doubled since 1973. *The Times* has recosted the same items regularly since 1978, visiting the same north London supermarket to compare prices.

Many things have happened to complicate the calculations in the intervening years. Metrication and changing habits have led manufacturers to abandon some of the weights Mrs Oppenheim specified.

Where equivalents are no longer available, it is assumed for the purpose of this year's calculation that the average family had no choice but to buy the nearest alternative. Being average, however, they are not given the chance to buy "luxury" or "premium" quality goods when more basic is available.

The three bottles of spirits are now supermarket own-label brands, with two, surprisingly, cheaper than last year. But they are 5cl smaller than in 1973 when the standard bottle size was 75cl. The pint of beer comes from the supermarket, not a Calais hypermarket or a public house.

It would be possible to buy many of the goods more cheaply at discount stores or from markets. Also, it is doubtful whether "average" children would still be content with the relatively meagre choice of toys and games available in the supermarket.

☐ The estimate for this week's National Lottery jackpot, to be drawn tomorrow, has been revised upwards from £6 million to £8 million. David Rigg, of Camelot, said that ticket sales were well ahead of last week's running total. "Christmas shopping and general seasonal cheer seem to be contributing factors," he said.

Winners in this week's draw, to be shown by BBC1 live from the Birmingham Hippodrome, can call Camelot until midnight tomorrow and between 9am and noon on Christmas Day.

Libby Purves and Giles Coren, page 11

COST OF CHRISTMAS

	1973	1993	1994
Turkey, 14lb fresh	£7.06	£13.86	£13.86
Mince pies, 6	12p	59p	59p
Christmas pudding, 1½lb	34p	£2.82	£2.99
Christmas cake, 40oz	90p	£4.50	£5.49
Brussels sprouts	12p	52½p	85p
Potatoes, 3lb	7½p	30p	59p
½lb of chocolates	40p	£1.49	£1.59
Assorted nuts, ½lb	17p	49½p	89p
Christmas tree, 5ft	60p	£25	£18.50
Tree lights	99p	£6.99	£6.99
Tinsel	60p	£1.45	£1.69
Christmas crackers	49p	£4.49	£5.49
Bottle of gin	£2.45	£8.95	£9.29
Bottle of whisky	£2.39	£8.95	£8.89
Bottle of brandy	£4.44	£9.59	£9.39
Pint of beer	19p	69½p	74p
24 Christmas cards	60p	£2.49	£2.88
5 sheets wrapping paper	15p	59p	69p
Postage, first class x 24	84p	£6	£6
Toys and games	£10.95	£81.16	£89.85
Parcel post, 4 x 2kg	£1.08	£13	£13.20
Total	£34.89½	£193.93	£200.45

GERRY PENNY



Cars are loaded on to the first shuttle to carry fare-paying passengers through the tunnel yesterday

Shuttle delay cost Eurotunnel £100m

BY CATHERINE MILTON

FARE-PAYING passengers finally travelled by shuttle through the Channel Tunnel today, as Eurotunnel disclosed that the 18-month delay in opening cost up to £100 million in lost revenue.

The figure was revealed by Christopher Garnett, Eurotunnel's commercial director, as the first commercial shuttle pulled out of Folkestone for the 35-minute journey to Calais. The hourly services yesterday were sold out after an "enormous" public response.

Daytrippers, holidaymakers, businessmen and Christmas shoppers crowded on to the 10.09am Le Shuttle, which left Folkestone on time and arrived in sunshine 31 miles later after a trouble-free 80mph journey.

One passenger, Glyn Rowland, 37, a golf professional from Epping, Essex, was more determined than most to enjoy the free champagne handed out at Folkestone. He disclosed that he had lost £23,000 because of the falling price of Eurotunnel shares. He bought 2,500 shares at £11.88 each five years ago — they are now worth just £2.80 each.

Mr Garnett said: "This is a wonderful day — the tunnel is finally open to the motoring public and we are confident it will be a huge success."

Passengers paid £49 for a day return, £75 for a five-day return, and £136 for a standard return — or a special £30 fee for shareholders.

Hypermarkets in Calais were boosted by the new service, though most of the daytrippers crowding the aisles had come by ferry.

At Mammouth where shop assistants use rollerskates to cover the store's vast shopfloor, British buyers, some looking travel-worn, stocked up on wine, beer, cheese and paté. Many had started their spending at the ferries' duty-free boutiques. As early as 12.30pm (11.30am British time) some shoppers were already anxious to catch their boats home.

Saving lives with salt and sugar

THIS CHRISTMAS, Save the Children is seeking to reduce the number of young lives lost from preventable diseases like diarrhoea.

More than 8,000 children suffering from diarrhoea die every day.

Yet according to Nicholas Hinton, the charity's Director General, many of these lives could be saved for as little as 10 pence, the cost of a sachet of Oral Rehydrauon Salts.

The salts, a simple mixture of sodium and sugar, prevent children from dehydrating, the most common cause of death from acute diarrhoea. Over the past few years, the effectiveness of these salts has been proven as they have helped to save thousands of lives.

Hinton continues, "The sachets cost as little as 10 pence and are simple to use, which makes them easy to include in our health programmes."



A simple solution can save thousands of young lives each year.

Photo by MIKE WELLS

Urgent Appeal

Save the Children's Christmas Appeal aims to raise funds to buy more Oral Rehydration Salts and other vital healthcare resources and send them to children most in need.

Hinton adds, "Just £10 can help save the lives of 100 children. What better gift could you give a child than the gift of life?"

If you would like to make a donation to help Save the Children with their work, please return the coupon below to Christmas Appeal, Dept. 4050517, Save the Children, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR.

Yes, I want to give the gift of life this Christmas

Please accept my gift of: ☐ £30 ☐ £15 ☐ £10 ☐ Other £____

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms.____ Address:____

Postcode:____

I enclose my: Cash ☐ Postal Order ☐ Cheque ☐ Giro No. 5173000 ☐ CAV ☐

Or charge my: Access ☐ American Express ☐ Card No ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ CAF Card ☐ Signature____ Card Expiry Date____

Please return to: Christmas Appeal, Dept. 4050517, Save the Children, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR
Or dial 071-701 0694 with your credit card details. Thank you.

Save the Children

Registered Charity no. 213890

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Great tradition

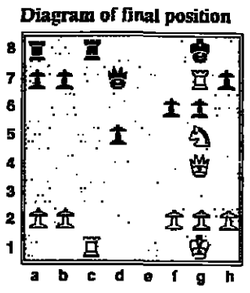
The annual Hastings tournament is due to start on December 28. The competition has a great tradition stretching back to 1895. That inaugural event witnessed some of the finest games played including the following masterpiece by the first official world champion, Wilhelm Steinitz.

White: Steinitz
Black: von Bardeleben
Hastings, 1895

Italian Game

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	Bc5
4	c3	Nf6
5	d4	exd4
6	cxd4	Bb4+
7	Nc3	d5
8	exd5	Nxd5
9	0-0	Be6
10	Bg5	Be7
11	Bxd5	Bxd5
12	Nxd5	Qxd5
13	Bxe7	Nxe7
14	Re1	f6
15	Qe2	Qd7
16	Rac1	c6
17	d5	cxd5
18	Nd4	Nf7
19	Ne6	Rhc8
20	Qg4	g6
21	Ng5+	Ke8
22	Rxe7+	Kf8
23	Rf7+	Kg8
24	Rg7+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



a b c d e f g h

One of the most original finishes on record. Black must either lose material or succumb to a beautiful forced checkmate as follows: 24 ... Kh8 25 Rxh7+ Kg8 26 Rg7+ Kh8 27 Qh4+ Kxg7 28 Qh7+ Kf8 29 Qh8+ Ke7 30 Qg7+ Ke8 31 Qg8+ Ke7 32 Qf7+ Kd8 33 Qf8+ Qe8 34 Nf7+ Kd7 35 Qd6.

Groningen

In the tournament in Groningen, Holland, leading scores after three rounds are: Sokolov 2.5, Miles, Yusupov and Georgiev 2. In round three, English grandmaster Tony Miles won the following fluctuating struggle.

White: Almasi
Black: Miles
Groningen, 1994

Nimzowitsch Defence

1	e4	Nc6
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	Nf6
4	Nc3	Bg4
5	Be2	e6
6	h3	Bh5
7	d5	exd5
8	exd5	Bxf3
9	Bxf3	Ne5
10	Be2	Be7
11	0-0	0-0
12	a4	a6
13	Be3	Nfd7
14	a5	Ng6
15	Ra4	Nc5
16	Ra3	Bg5
17	Bxc5	dxc5
18	Ne4	Be7
19	Rc3	Re8
20	Bf3	Bd6
21	Nxc5	Qh4
22	Nxb7	Be5
23	Rb3	Nf4
24	g3	Qxh3
25	d6	Re6
26	dxc7	Bxc7
27	Qd7	Ree8
28	Re3	Rxe3
29	Qxh3	Nxh3+
30	Kg2	Rxf3

White resigns

Winning Move, page 32

Corrupt lawyer jailed for a year

A SOLICITOR who helped a businessman to plunder company accounts and a pension fund to pay a £114,000 divorce bill was jailed for a year yesterday.

Simon Easton, 48, threw away a successful career and brought shame on himself and his family simply to help a greedy client, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Judge Laurie said: "A corrupt lawyer is a cancer in society and a corrupt practice of this magnitude must be marked by a sentence of imprisonment."

Easton, a senior partner in the central London law firm Calow Easton, was convicted last month of three charges of false accounting in 1989. He had withdrawn an invoice issued to his client, Edward Hunter, who said he could not afford to pay, and submitted three false invoices in their place.

Hunter, 64, who was head of Peak Designs, in Derbyshire, syphoned £17,250 from his firm's pension scheme and took a further £26,750 from company funds. Unknown to the jury trying Easton, Hunter had been jailed for four years for offences that left the pension fund £800,000 poorer. He spent the money on an extravagant lifestyle and a £500,000 divorce settlement.

David Bate, QC, for the defence, said Easton, a father of four of Crockham Hill, Kent, had since repaid the £44,000 but was about to be struck off by the Law Society. He pleaded for leniency so that Easton could spend Christmas with his family.

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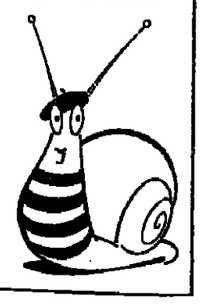
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هكذا من الأصل

Cabinet minister leads attack on rabbis' secret official marriage blacklist

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI civil rights activists accused the Religious Affairs Ministry yesterday of keeping a secret computerised blacklist of 10,000 citizens who are prohibited from marrying other Jews, and pledged to challenge it in court.

Led by Shulamit Aloni, the left-wing Minister of Communications and Culture, the activists called on the Government of Yitzhak Rabin to override the Orthodox rabbis who have a monopoly on issuing Jewish marriage licences, and instead to permit civil marriages.

Anat Hoffman, a member of Jerusalem City Council, said that information about the wedding blacklist had come from a clerk in the government computer agency, who was shocked when she came across it while doing her routine work. The list includes about 2,000 people identified as *mamzerim*, Hebrew meaning "offspring of a forbidden union".

According to Ms Hoffman, "some of those on the list do not even know that they appear". The cases range from women lacking proper divorce papers to the alleged descendants of sinners from several thousand years ago. Any children conceived during an illicit affair by a married woman are also barred from getting married in Israel.

One of those on the list is Uri Sasson, who thought he had been married to his wife, Suham, for 30 years when the union was disqualified after an anonymous telephone caller alerted rabbis in charge of compiling the blacklist that he was the brother of his wife's first husband. Mr Sasson, 47, was so ashamed that three years ago he tried to commit suicide.

Under Jewish law, a woman is permitted to marry a husband's brother only if she is widowed. The existence of the secret list of Jews who, it is claimed, are being denied the freedom to have a family has shocked many Israelis and deepened the already dangerously wide divide between secular and religious Jews.

The issue became news this week when a rabbinical court in the Galilean town of Tiberias annulled the 12-year marriage of Shoshana Hadad because one of her distant ancestors, a member of the Cohens (the family name means "priest"), was said to have married a divorcee 2,500 years ago. According to the court, no member of the Hadad clan can ever marry a Cohen.

Ms Aloni said that the problem of being blacklisted would affect many of the 500,000 immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union since 1989, about a fifth of whom are considered non-Jewish and therefore unable to marry Jews in Israel. The minister said the only answer was to permit civil marriage, which has been denied so far because of the political clout of the minority religious parties in the Knesset.

Zeev Chafets, one of Israel's leading columnists, who was recently forced to marry his new wife, Lisa, outside Israel because she is not a Jew, wrote in *The Jerusalem Report*: "Israel bills itself as the only democracy in the Middle East, but in matters of personal status it is a theocracy, pure and simple. It is easy to imagine the contempt we would feel for a country that prohibited Jews to marry gentiles in the name of ethnic or religious purity." The column, in which Chafets, a former head of the government information office, said "the rabbis won't consider our children Jewish, which is fine by me", prompted an unprecedented number of hostile letters.

Zeev Rosenberg, the director-general of the Religious Affairs Ministry, agreed yesterday that the blacklist existed, but said it contained no more than 4,000 names.

President defers poll decision as Berlusconi quits

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the Italian Prime Minister, resigned at last yesterday after his former allies in the Northern League pulled out of his seven-month-old coalition.

Signor Berlusconi, 57, delivered his resignation to President Scalfaro at the Quirinal Palace after presiding over a tense Cabinet meeting at the Palazzo Chigi. His decision meant that he did not have to undergo three no-confidence motions tabled against him by the League and the centre and the Left opposition.

Signor Berlusconi hoped the head of state would immediately call a new general election but President Scalfaro said instead that he "reserved his decision" on how to handle the crisis and asked the Prime Minister to remain in office on a caretaker basis.

President Scalfaro is to begin formal consultations today on the political crisis when he meets Francesco Cossiga and Giovanni Leone, the former presidents. Senator Cossiga, 64, has let it be known he would be willing to lead a broad-based interim government to pass institutional reforms before a new election. Many Italians regard Senator Cossiga as an unstable, sinister figure because of his murky record as Interior Minister during the 1978 kidnapping and murder by Red Brigades terrorists of Aldo Moro, the moderate Christian Democrat leader.

As head of state, Senator Cossiga was prone to wild statements criticising the foreign press and the established political parties though he became the darling of the Northern League and the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement. He resigned abruptly in 1992 leaving a power vacuum only filled by President Scalfaro.

Signor Berlusconi told Parliament in a valedictory speech on Tuesday that the President had no choice but to call an immediate election since forming an alternative government without going to the polls would be a "betrayal" of the voters who elected his Freedom Alliance. But President Scalfaro reminded the Prime Minister that "Italy is not a direct democracy but a democracy based on parliamentary representation". The President believes that a new Government composed of at least the League and the opposition Democratic Party of the Left and the Italian Popular Party (PPI), would be legitimate and is anxious to postpone new elections until urgently needed reforms, especially curbing Signor Berlusconi's near monopoly of Italian television, are passed.

Signor Berlusconi and his "post-Fascist" ally in the National Alliance, Gianfranco Fini, have let it be known that they will mount a fierce opposition to any alternative Government before elections. President Scalfaro faces a difficult choice: if he does not name a new Prime Minister with a mandate to reform the laws governing media ownership then Signor Berlusconi and Signor Fini are likely to win the next election because of the tycoon's media power.

They also are trying to woo the vacillating leader of the PPI, the former Christian Democrats — the earnest philosopher Rocco Buttiglione — who is under pressure from the Vatican not to form a coalition with the former communists.

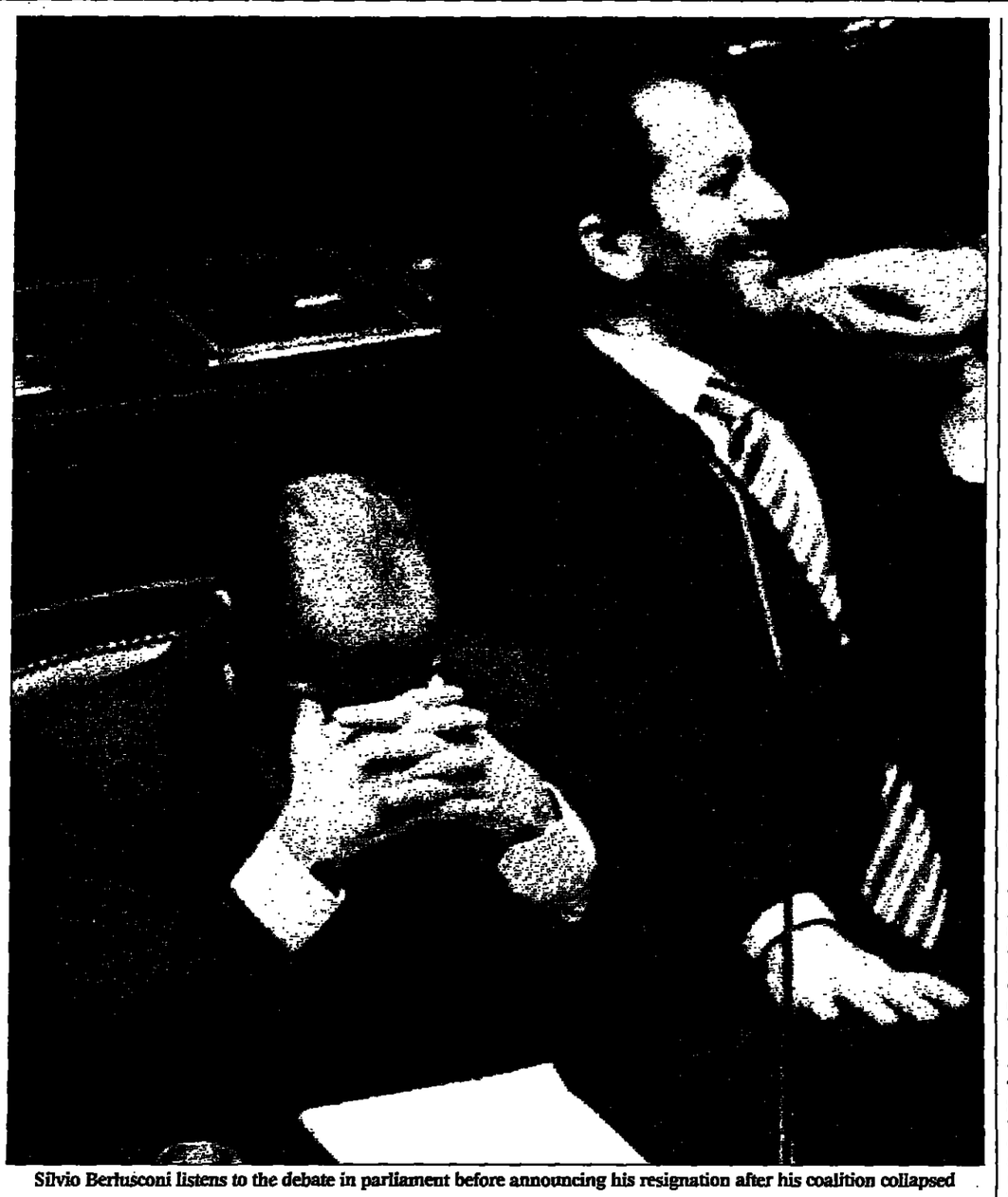
Newspapers yesterday said candidates hoping to become the next Prime Minister include Carlo Scognamiglio, the elegant but inconsequential Senate speaker, Lamberto Dini, the wily Treasury Minister under investigation for building a swimming pool on the roof of his grace and favour apartment without planning permission, and Mario Monti, a respected Republican economist.

President Scalfaro will suspend consultations today for the Christmas holidays and resume them on Tuesday, the Quirinal Palace said last night.

Signor Berlusconi is a bad loser and has branded Umberto Bossi, the Northern League leader, a "traitor" to his cause. Up to 50 Northern league MPs were expected to announce yesterday they would leave the League and support Signor Berlusconi.

FACTFILE: ITALY

The main parties:
Forza Italia: Founded in January by Silvio Berlusconi on a vague platform of nationalism and free market anti-communism. Became one the largest parties in the March general election. Party pollsters claim it retains its dominant position despite the tycoon's judicial and political woes.
Democratic Party of the Left (PDS): former Communists who renounced Marxism and changed name in 1991. Leader Massimo D'Alema calls for "institutional government" with all-party representation to pass reforms.
Italian Popular Party (PPI): Rump of former Christian Democrats who ran Italy since Second World War until losing power over corrupt leadership and Mafia links. Remains close to Vatican but leader Rocco Buttiglione unsure whether to side with PDS or Signor Berlusconi.
National Alliance: Main ally of Forza Italia with principal component being the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement founded in 1946 by Mussolini admirers. Leader Gianfranco Fini is among Italy's most adept politicians. Party mascot is Alessandra Mussolini, dictator's granddaughter.
Northern League: Former coalition partner of Berlusconi whose abrasive leader Umberto Bossi has accused him of being a "danger to democracy". League played key role in supporting Milan magistrates fighting corruption.



Silvio Berlusconi listens to the debate in parliament before announcing his resignation after his coalition collapsed

Prime Minister's brother given jail sentence

Milan: Paolo Berlusconi, brother of Silvio, was fined and given a seven-month suspended sentence yesterday for illicit financing of a political party, officials said.

The prosecution had asked for a five-month jail sentence. The officials said the sentence would not appear on Signor Berlusconi's police record, but he will have to pay a fine of 10 million lire (£4,000). Oreste Dominioni, his lawyer, said that he would appeal against the ruling, which was issued on the same day that Silvio Berlusconi resigned as Prime Minister.

Paolo Berlusconi, 44, had been accused of having paid 150 million lire in the late 1980s to the Lombardy branch of the Christian Democratic Party at the time of the construction of an illegal public dump in Uboldo, Lombardy. He was a senior executive of his brother's Fininvest group. The prosecutor had not accused Paolo of corruption, but said that he had violated legislation on financing political parties. The sentence is considered severe for such an offence. He was arrested in August, but was released later.

A total of 26 other people were found guilty in the same trial, including Giuseppe Adamoli and Serafino Generoso, two former Christian Democratic regional officials, and three contractors. The toughest sentence was imposed on Gianstefano Frigerio, the former Christian Democratic regional secretary in Lombardy, who was jailed for four and a half years. *(AFP)*

Lock sex case jury fails to reach verdict

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

TONY LOCK, the former English Test cricketer, could face another trial next year on sexual assault charges after a district court jury in Perth, Western Australia, could not reach a majority verdict yesterday.

The jury of five women and seven men deliberated for more than eight hours before telling the judge that it could not reach at least a 10-2 verdict on any of four indecency charges. Mr Lock, wearing a West Australian Cricket Association blazer, sat impassively in the dock as the judge dismissed the jury and then remanded him on bail to reappear in court on the same charges next year.

The Director of Public Prosecutions will now decide whether Mr Lock faces a second trial on the charges as early as February.

Mr Lock, who is dying from lung cancer, has denied committing four indecent acts against a 10-year-old girl at his home, near Perth, in 1980. The woman, now 24 and married, alleged that he fondled her when she stayed overnight at the invitation of Mr Lock's daughter, Jackie. Six defence witnesses testified that Mr Lock, 65, did not live in the house then.

Earlier yesterday, the court heard evidence from Peter McCarthy, a psychiatrist. He said that people's recollections were *not* always accurate. "Memory is not a computer record," he emphasised.

Before the jury retired, Judge Brian O'Dea said: "It is dangerous to convict on the evidence of the woman alone, unless you are absolutely satisfied with the accuracy of her evidence." Mr Lock, a former Surrey spin bowler, played 49 Tests for England.

Infant 'euthanasia' challenged

FROM REUTER IN THE HAGUE

TWO Dutch doctors who killed gravely ill newborn babies are facing trial in The Netherlands in test cases of the country's liberal policy on euthanasia.

One of the doctors, a gynaecologist, has admitted killing a three-day-old severely handicapped girl at her parents' request. Her brain was only partly developed, she had spina bifida and partial paralysis, her limbs were malformed and she faced a life of constant pain. Winnie Sorgdrager, the Justice Minister, ordered the doctors to be prosecuted to determine what the law prescribes for cases when doctors end the lives of people who are unable to request that they die.

"Neither of these cases are actually euthanasia as we understand the term," said Johan Legemaaten, a legal expert for the Royal Dutch Medical Association. "Euthanasia ... has to be asked for by a patient."

The Dutch Parliament last year set down guidelines under which doctors will not be prosecuted for killing their patients. Doctors must be able to show that a patient was terminally ill, in unbearable suffering and had repeatedly asked to die. Public prosecutors had decided not to press charges in either baby's case.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Monaco rules out abdication

Paris: Monaco yesterday denied a magazine report that Prince Rainier had decided to abdicate and hand power to his son Albert (Charles Bremner writes).

Paris Match said the city-state had cancelled police leave in February and had ordered new insignia, including uniforms for royal staff, with Prince Albert's initials. The report was given credibility by the rest of the French media because the magazine has previously had access to the Grimaldi family, often publishing exclusive pictures and interviews with the royal family.

However, the palace said that Prince Rainier, 71, who underwent heart bypass surgery last month, "most formally denies this fantasy".

Divorce granted

New York: Jeff Koons, the artist, has been granted a divorce from Ilona Staller, the Italian MP and former pornographic actress, and custody of their son. She is to fight the custody order. *(AP)*

Apology given

Auckland: New Zealand has agreed to apologise to Tainui, a Maori tribal federation, over Maori land confiscated last century. The Queen, as head of state, may have to convey the apology. *(AFP)*

Aid warning

Tokyo: Japan is to provide $5.8 billion (£3.7 billion) in aid to China from 1996, including environmental projects, but said more nuclear testing could endanger the three-year package. *(Reuter)*

MP charged

Delhi: Sajjan Kumar, a Congress Party MP, and 12 other people have been charged with inciting Hindu mobs to kill minority Sikhs in revenge for the assassination of Indira Gandhi ten years ago. *(AP)*

Storms deaths

Manila: At least 15 people were killed and 40 injured by tropical storm Axel in the Philippines. President Ramos ordered the release of an initial 29 million pesos (£769,230) for emergency aid. *(AFP)*

Silent night

Moscow: For the first time this year, there was not a single murder here in a 24-hour period. Police patrols to combat Chechen raids and the cold could have kept criminals at home. *(AP)*

Snake's off

Shanghai: An invasion of mice and rats is feared in Shanghai because all the snakes have been caught for food. Restaurants in the city have been asked to stop serving the reptiles. *(AFP)*

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Chechenia mission in turmoil after general resigns

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S armed forces were thrown into confusion last night after a senior general resigned in protest against the incursion into Chechenia, and the fate of several other commanders hung in the balance.

One of those who may face dismissal because of his opposition to the military operation is General Georgi Kondratyev, the Russian Deputy Defence Minister.

Colonel General Eduard Vorobyov, the deputy commander of Russian land forces, apparently tendered his resignation after he was ordered to take command of the ill-fated operation to reimpose Russian control over the breakaway republic.

"We are excited by the wise step of General Vorobyov, who did not want to stain his honour, but we also want to ask President Yeltsin who he is going to have in the army if such people as Vorobyov leave," said Sergei Yushenkov, a liberal member of parliament, who announced the general's resignation.

The rebellion came amid signs that the Kremlin is intent on pushing for a speedy end to the 12-day operation, in which thousands of Russian troops have failed to make any significant gains against the lightly armed and outnumbered Chechen forces.

Yesterday Russian warplanes launched their most savage attack against Grozny, the besieged Chechen capital, where at least 20 people were killed. While insisting that the campaign would not be halted, Mr Yeltsin announced last night that his advisers were formulating a new proposal to reach a political settlement with General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader.

The apparent mixed signals from the Kremlin mirrored the confusion in the military operation, and last night it was still unclear as to who was actually in command of Russian troops on the ground.

The official Tass news agency reported that General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, had taken personal control of the operation and had sacked several generals, including General Kondratyev and the entire North Caucasus command, because of their "inaction". The reported dismissals were later denied, but they did not allay fears of a purge.

General Kondratyev was one of the first senior Russian officers to air his misgivings about using force to impose Moscow's rule over Chechenia. Earlier this month he described General Dudayev as the "legitimate" head of his nation. "We cannot solve the Chechen problem by military means," he said. His views are widely shared among Russians, including his brother officers in the armed forces.

There was also no immediate word on the fate of Major General Ivan Babichev, the commander of the Pskov airborne division, who commanded one of the three Russian columns in Chechenia and who refused to obey orders to advance against civilian demonstrators.

Even if he and other generals have been silenced, General Grachev will still have to dismiss many more commanders if he wants to eliminate his detractors from the forces.

Although it is widely accepted that the Russian Army could overrun the Chechen defenders, Russian soldiers, from the most senior commanders down to the conscripts, have shown little enthusiasm for a fight that has already claimed the lives of scores of civilians and more than 20 soldiers.

President Yeltsin has always been wary of the army since troops hesitated to carry out his orders last year to stamp out the uprising by hardliners at the White House parliamentary building in Moscow. To weaken his reliance on the army he has increasingly turned to the Interior Ministry forces, who make up the bulk of the troops fighting in Chechenia. But here, too, there has been resistance, and five officers were recently sacked for refusing to obey orders.

Pavel Felgenhauer, the defence correspondent of the respected *Sevodnya* newspaper, predicted yesterday that if the discontent in the military was left unchecked, the Kremlin could face a revolt by the armed forces.



Kondratyev: against use of force in Chechenia

JEREMY SELWYN



Sergeant Nikki Isley and Inspector Graham Giles on patrol in a desolate Mostar street. They are unarmed, without even their truncheons

British police go on the beat in Bosnia

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN MOSTAR

FIVE British police officers will spend Christmas trying to bring peace and goodwill to one of the most war-stricken places on earth — without a weapon between them.

The West Midlands policemen, and one policewoman, arrived in the shell-shocked Bosnian town of Mostar last week. Their mission is to help set up an impartial civilian police force in the rubble-strewn streets where crime is rampant, and armed Croats and Muslims view one another with bitterness across the Neretva river.

Yet the five volunteers do not even carry truncheons, have not been taught about Balkan history or politics, and live in bed-and-breakfast lodgings miles outside Mostar in a town up in the mountains. They are part of a 130-strong police presence from across Europe organised by the Western European Union. "The fact that everyone here is armed to the teeth is a stumbling block," Superintendent Pat Wing said. "There was a lot of discussion about whether we should carry guns but in the end the answer was 'no'."

The five will spend the next six months trying to instil the ideals of British justice on streets reminiscent of Dresden after the Second World War. Mostar has probably suffered more war damage than any other town in Bosnia. The piercing blue waters of the Neretva now eddy over the ruins of the once-famous Ottoman Old Bridge, destroyed in the worst days of Mostar's fighting, and form the dividing line between the mainly Muslim community on the east and the Croats on the west.

"The eastern police never go into the west and vice versa," said Inspector Graham Giles. "Unfortunately we are not getting a great deal of help from either side. We can never get them to talk to one another."

Sergeant Nikki Isley, 36, the only woman among the British contingent, braved the bitterly cold driving rain, and the perils of a rickety Indiana Jones-style footbridge that locals have strung across the river to replace the Ottoman bridge, to visit the eastern side. "The first thing that struck us is that the level of destruction is outside our sphere of experience. Everyone here has a dead look in their eyes. They feel they have no future."

Two of the British police helped to escort Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Minister for Overseas Development, when she visited Mostar this week. They smoothed her path in the rain as she toured a bakery that is run by the War Child Charity and funded by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), watching bemused as chain-smoking Bosnians baked bread for the Muslim-dominated side of town.

British involvement in Mostar runs deep. Cash from the ODA has helped an elderly Muslim couple live on in splendid isolation among the pulverised and deserted ruins of flats on the front line. Mira and Avdo Silic refused to flee with all their neighbours when their block was devastated in 1992.

British and Dutch troops found the couple huddled in a cellar with no water or electricity, and ODA money was found to rebuild a luxury flat on the second floor of the ruined block. Mira, 73, thinks that the Queen has personally organised her "little palace in this chaos".



WORLD SUMMARY

Body of US pilot returned

Washington: North Korea, after heavy pressure from the United States, yesterday returned the remains of an American military helicopter pilot shot down over its territory last Saturday (Martin Fletcher writes).

The body of Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon was handed over to a United Nations honour guard at Panmunjom village in the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea. The co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, who survived the crash, would be released soon, North Korea said. Yesterday it also promised to open up its sealed airspace to the world's airlines, one of the first tangible signs of change after the death o its dictator, Kim Il Sung.

Malaysia to cane cheats

Kuala Lumpur: The Malaysian parliament has approved a law that makes caning mandatory for white-collar crimes, which now account for 15 per cent of the total.

The Government said the purpose of caning white-collar criminals was to shame them. The law provides for whipping for such crimes as embezzlement, tax fraud and bribery. The Bill also eliminates all jury trials, which were being used only for first-degree murder cases. *(AP)*

State scoops £61m jackpot

Madrid: The Spanish Treasury was the main single winner in the national lottery yesterday, with a £60.9-million windfall from *El Gordo*, or The Fat One, the Christmas draw (Edward Owen writes).

The state ended up being the biggest single shareholder in the winning number: tickets are divided, and a third of the fractions for it were unsold. But there was plenty of Christmas cheer as the total payout was nearly £800 million.



Baroness Chalker surveys the replacement for the bombed-out bridge in Mostar

Two die as Sarajevo market is hit in countdown to truce

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

TWO mortar bombs landed in a Sarajevo marketplace yesterday, killing two people and wounding seven.

The attack came one day before a ceasefire brokered by Jimmy Carter, the former American President, was due to take effect and only ten months after a similar assault, with a higher death toll, prompted Western countries to threaten airstrikes.

The shelling happened an hour before the United Nations special envoy, Yasushi Akashi, arrived in Sarajevo for talks on the ceasefire and ensuing negotiations between the Bosnian Government and separatist Serb leaders.

Across the road from the market and just 30ft from where the second shell landed, Harudin Sahic, 61, was opening his hat shop when the first round hit. He dived for cover under his sewing machine just before the second round exploded. "I heard the explosion and the screams," said Mr Sahic, whose wife was killed when a shell hit their flat last year. "Then the taxi drivers came and started taking them to hospital.

"Milosevic [the Serbian President] said this morning that there will be peace and the war will end," he said. "Whenever they say the word 'peace', go immediately to your shelter."

One of the dead yesterday, a man aged 22, had been selling scrap. The other was a local policeman. Less than a quarter of a mile away is the Markale market, site of last February's mortar bombing in which 68 residents were killed by a single round.

That yesterday's mortar attack passed without the UN giving any serious consideration to calling in Nato warplanes reflects the dramatic shift in relations between the international community and the Serbs since last February. International outrage over the Markale incident translated into a resolve that kept the Bosnian Serbs in check in the months that followed. With time, however, the West's resolve waned and Serbs became bolder.

"The initial report is that the shells were fired from Grbavica and we can only conclude that it was from the Bosnian Serbs," a UN spokesman, Thant Myint-U, said after yesterday's incident.

The shelling was followed by heavy weapons attacks on three of the five other "safe areas". Serb forces fired 17 tank rounds into the Zepa "safe area" and as many as nine mortar shells into the Gorazde protected zone.

In the northwestern town of Bihac, a UN-declared "safe area", Serb troops have fought their way into control of almost half the area and have launched limited but repeated attacks on the rest. Yesterday, one person was killed and a number wounded when four artillery shells exploded in the town.

Mr Sahic, twice wounded in the war, seemed unshaken by yesterday's shelling. When asked about whether the war might soon be over, as Mr Carter suggested on his recent trip to the Bosnian capital, Mr Sahic shook his head. "It is finished for today, but tomorrow is new day."

Yesterday Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, returned to Sarajevo after a week's holiday and saluted the former President's efforts in securing the ceasefire.

"Carter made a most wonderful contribution. He described himself as a private citizen, but he is much more than that. He was in close consultation with us – right – from the start," General Rose said. "We are delighted with what he has achieved."

هكذا من الأصل

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Clinton aide under suspicion of lying to federal judge

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ANOTHER senior member of the Clinton Administration was facing a criminal investigation yesterday, this time over charges that he may have lied to a federal judge.

The judge, Royce Lamberth, has formally asked federal prosecutors to determine whether Ira Magaziner, who headed President Clinton's healthcare task force, committed "the criminal offence of contempt of court, as well as possible perjury" in testimony last year. Mr Magaziner, Mr Clinton's friend since they were both Rhodes Scholars at Oxford, was trying to defeat a court action brought by medical groups seeking access to the task force's deliberations. He persuaded Judge Lamberth that the task force consisted entirely of government employees and was therefore entitled to operate in secret.

Mr Lamberth now believes that declaration was "misleading at best". News of his action came as Mr Clinton prepared to replace Mike Espy, the Agriculture Secretary, who is resigning under an ethical cloud. The President is giving the post to Dan Glickman, a Kansas congressman defeated in last month's elections.

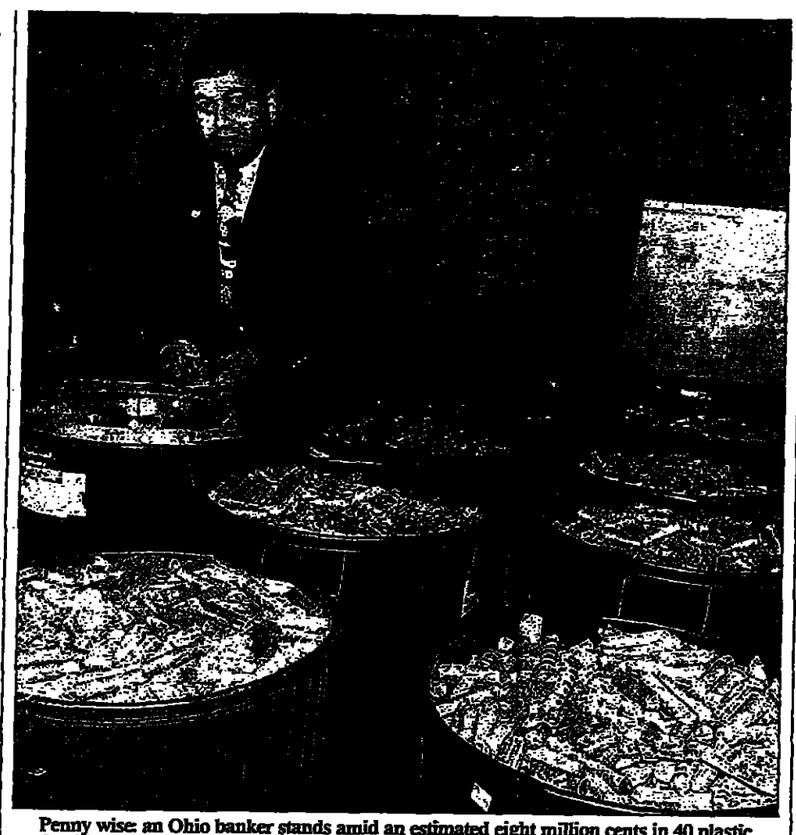
Mr Espy allegedly improperly accepted gifts from an Arkansas poultry company with close links to the President and his conduct is now being investigated by a special prosecutor. Several other senior administration officials have resigned or are being investigated over the Whitewater affair.

Mr Clinton, still furious about his party's election rout and increasingly alarmed about his own 1996 re-election chances, was reported to be reducing his dependence on the high-profile political advisers who engineered his 1992 presidential victory. They include Stanley Greenberg, the pollster, Mandy Grunwald, a media consultant, and James Carville and Paul Begala, political strategists.

"He's madder than hell," one senior Democrat told the *Los Angeles Times*. "The President is now his own campaign manager. He's had it with people telling him how to do it. He's taking charge."

Since November Mr Clinton has privately raged at his advisers' failure to communicate his achievements or develop a potent campaign message that might have prevented the Republicans seizing Congress. Compounding his anger were the huge sums paid for the advisers' services over the past two years. Mr Greenberg's firm received nearly $3.5 million and Ms Grunwald's, $1 million-plus.

Mr Clinton is not dispensing with the advisers' services altogether, but is preparing to use a much wider circle of consultants for his re-election campaign.



Penny wise: an Ohio banker stands amid an estimated eight million cents in 40 plastic dustbins. The money was deposited by a man, 70, who has been collecting the coins since he was five. The bank says it could be counting the $80,000 (£52,000) in cents until Easter

Gingrich attacked over book deals

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

NEWT GINGRICH, the incoming Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, was at the centre of fresh controversy yesterday when it was revealed he had accepted a $4 million (£2.55 million) contract for two books.

The White House and other critics accused him of cashing in on his new position and of possibly laying himself open to a conflict of interests. The contract, however, does not appear to violate any rules.

The deal is for a book that Mr Gingrich will write on his political vision and another, a political anthology, that he will edit. The contract is with HarperCollins, the New York publishing house owned by News America, the US arm of News Corporation, of which Rupert Murdoch is chairman and chief executive. News Corp owns *The Times* through a subsidiary.

Although $4 million seems a staggering amount — it is just $3 million less than Ronald Reagan received for his memoirs after eight years in the White House — other recent books by conservatives such as Dan Quayle have proved runaway bestsellers as America has moved sharply to the Right. More, Mr Gingrich is very much America's man of the moment.

His spokesman suggested that he would give some of the advance to charity. But that failed to pre-empt criticism. The new Speaker was "the first guy who tried to cash in before he was sworn in", James Carville, President Clinton's campaign strategist, told *The Washington Post*.

The paper also pointed out that Mr Murdoch has an interest in several regulatory matters being considered by the Government, including the question of whether Fox Television is violating restrictions on foreign ownership of American television stations.

Mr Gingrich's literary efforts have been a source of controversy for some time. Earlier this month, it was revealed that he is co-writing *1945*, a novel containing at least one steamy sex scene.

In 1989 Mr Gingrich forced Jim Wright, the Democratic House Speaker, to resign for circumventing congressional limits on how much he could be paid in lecture fees by asking the groups he addressed to make bulk purchases of his book instead.

Jobless man held for bomb on subway

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

AN UNEMPLOYED computer technician, critically injured when a firebomb exploded on a crowded New York underground train, was arrested in hospital and charged with attempted murder and assault yesterday.

Edward Leary, 49, from New Jersey, faced 45 charges after the home-made bomb apparently ignited accidentally in his hands at Fulton Street in Manhattan, injuring 43 passengers, three of them critically.

Mr Leary became the main suspect after he had dragged his badly burnt body through a tunnel to a Brooklyn station two miles from the scene of the incident.

The police are investigating whether he may be linked to a similar accident last week in which a teenage girl's rucksack suddenly caught fire on another subway train in Harlem, badly burning a young boy.

Similarities were found in the construction of the incendiary devices that started both fires. Each consisted of a glass jar filled with flammable liquid and with a wire leading to a crude timer.

Mr Leary was under police guard yesterday at Cornell Medical Centre where he was said to have burns to his face, knuckles and legs.

☐ **Washington:** Marcelino Corniel, 33, the knife-wielding homeless black man who was shot by the police near the White House on Tuesday, has died (Martin Fletcher writes).

The American Civil Liberties Union and other critics have said the shooting was unnecessary and that the police could have subdued him in a less violent way.

Pelé put on spot as Sport Minister

BY JAMES ERSKINE

DWINDLING crowds, rising violence and alleged corruption throughout Brazilian football are among the problems facing Pelé when he becomes Special Minister for Sport in the new year.

But for many Brazilians, the appointment of Edson Arantes do Nascimento, the former soccer star's real name, will have an impact beyond the world of sport. "It is a symbol of a new optimism, a new era in our development," one Brazilian diplomat said yesterday.

Announcing the appointment, Fernando Cardoso, the President-elect, said Pelé was "a symbol of Brazil that has come up from the roots ... that has triumphed".

Pelé, 54, who played in the World Cup-winning sides in 1958, 1962 and 1970, and scored 97 goals for his country, is the second Brazilian footballer to become a Cabinet Minister. Zico — Artur Antunes Coimbra — who played in three World Cup competitions was the Sports Minister in 1990.

Leading article, page 13



Pelé: "symbol of new optimism" in Brazil

Lockerbie parents face $6m tax bill

BY TOM RHODES

THE parents of a man killed in the 1988 Lockerbie crash are facing a tax bill of more than $6 million (£3.8 million) on the settlement of a lawsuit against Pan Am even though no payment has been made to their son's estate and the amount of compensation has not been determined.

Mark Zwynenburg was one of 270 people killed after a terrorist bomb ripped apart the Boeing 747 in the skies above Scotland six years ago. His parents, John and Barbara Zwynenburg, who attended a commemoration service this week for 200 of the crash victims, are outraged that they should have received a letter from the United States Inland Revenue Service demanding such a sum.

"It is a very threatening, very intimidating letter," said Mr Zwynenburg, 60, from New York state. "I have two options: either accept it and pay, or go to tax court. I do not want to do either."

Mr Zwynenburg told *The New York Times* he had not received "a dime" in settlement of the case against the now defunct carrier, and he should not be forced to pay for accountants and lawyers to resolve what he considers a case of ineptitude by the American Government.

The family and its lawyers said that, of 200 pending cases deriving from the Pan Am 103 crash, they know of no other in which the revenue had issued a notice of due taxes.

Mark Zwynenburg, 29, a bachelor, had been working as an investment banker for Goldman Sachs in London at the time of his death. His estate was particularly large — about $1 million in assets in addition to the pending settlement — and the revenue said that it was obliged to stake a claim within three years of an estate's filing returns.

The letter was not a bill, said Frank Keith, a revenue official, but rather a notice that could not lead to enforcement until an amount was assessed by the US tax court. He expected lawyers for the estate to appeal. A final settlement for Lockerbie victims has been delayed while the defendants, Pan Am and its insurers, petition the Supreme Court for a retrial after a jury's finding that the airline had engaged in wilful misconduct.

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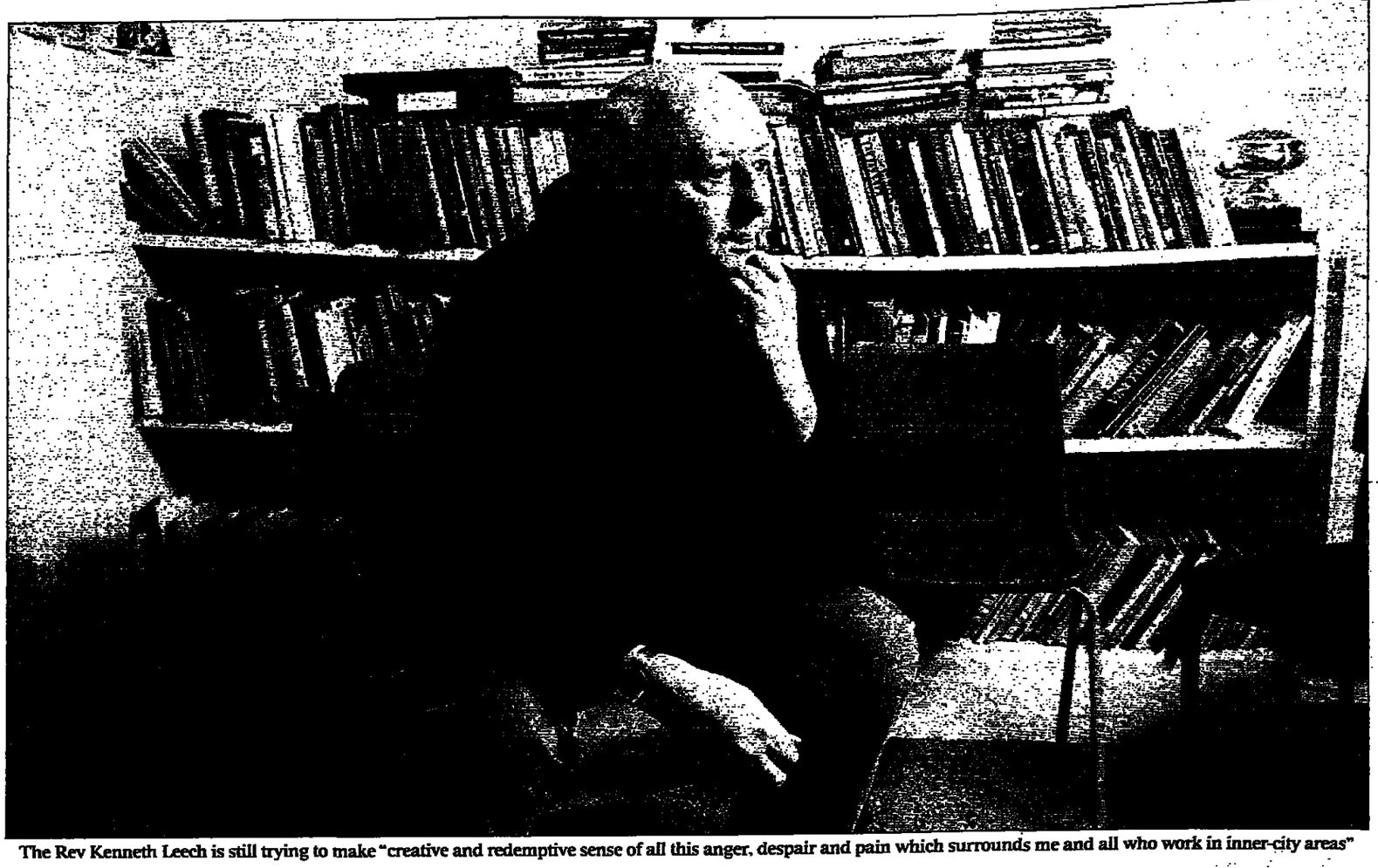
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Not just a social worker in a dog collar, a vicar who gave hope to the homeless says charity is not enough

'A good priest doesn't need to be respectable'

ALAN WELLER



The Rev Kenneth Leech is still trying to make "creative and redemptive sense of all this anger, despair and pain which surrounds me and all who work in inner-city areas"

The Rev Kenneth Leech, with his gnomic ears and cherubic cheeks, would make a fine Father Christmas. But his jovial demeanour — he will recite you a comic verse in Lancastrian dialect, and lists cartoon drawing and pubs as his hobbies — conceals the bleakness of his Christmas message.

Twenty-five years ago he started Centrepoint in Soho with £30 and a band of volunteers — a shelter for the roofless young he found when he arrived, an idealistic young curate, at St Anne's in Wardour Street.

Today he lives alone in a spartan book-filled attic flat close to St Botolph's at Aldgate East, where he can see Crisis at Christmas from his window. He is now St Botolph's resident theologian, a full-time job in a largely Muslim area of social turmoil on the cusp of the City and the East End. Here he tries to make creative and redemptive sense, as he puts it, of "all this anger, despair and pain which surrounds me and all who work in inner areas.

"It has been a terrible 25 years," he says, "in terms of the increase in homelessness and the way people accept its increase as no more than the inevitable operation of 'market forces'. Centrepoint remains a glimmer of hope and a sign of contradiction in the midst of all this apathy." On a bitterly cold Wednesday night this week, Tony Blair was visiting one of the Centrepoint hostels in London, and writing in the *Evening Standard* about "how I would end this shame".

But in 1967, the year of *Sergeant Pepper* and the sunny summer of love, young Ken Leech was filled with hope and optimism. His book *Keep the Faith Baby*, a title encapsulating the era, told how he went from a parish at Hoxton (where the workhouse of Oliver Twist still stood) and found in Soho exuberant young drifters high on peace and love and amphetamines. The only way to reach them was to immerse himself in their subculture, hanging around the clubs and bars at 3am, a time and place a priest had never before been seen. He kept his dog-collar on: "I wondered whether it would put people off — but then I realised it saved time."

He was influenced by his former vicar in Cable Street, the flamboyant Joe Williamson, who ministered to the brothels still thriving by the old London docks. "He was an exhibitionist character, who acted first and thought afterwards. He showed me it was possible to be a priest without being respectable or a gentleman or conformist."

In April 1968, Leech had addressed the Westminster Christian Council about the number of young people dossing in Soho, but nothing had been done. St Anne's had a basement inhabited by nothing but cockroaches. So on December 16, 1969, they got 20 surplus beds from the Middlesex Hospital, and opened the door. The first night nobody came at all. But word spread, and they had 6,000 in the first year. Every night at 1am, they sent a car to Euston station for new arrivals from Glasgow.

"We had a whole network of crashpads and hostels, and used a lot of people's floors." Richard Neville told readers of his book *Play Power* that Ken Leech could always get you free accommodation if you asked at the Coffee Cup at 40 Berwick Street.

"We scrounged food from pubs and from Cranks restaurant, who gave us bucketsful of very good beetroot soup, not necessarily what the young people really wanted. One day I had a telephone call from Lord Longford. He said: 'I have a friend in the soup business . . .' I said: 'We can always use more soup.' It turned out to be hundreds of cans of John Lusty's Lobster Bisque, a very exotic variety."

The Soho location helped Centrepoint's popular acceptability. "You could get away with anything in Soho. The homeless were invisible: the general public did not venture there."

It was called Centrepoint because it was so central, and also in order to draw attention to the towering absurdity of Harry Hyams's nearby white elephant, Centre Point, standing mockingly empty.

Today Centre Point's owners, property developers MEPC, are benefactors of Centrepoint, since one executive, curious about the number of young people arriving at the wrong Centre Point, went along and became a volunteer.

People used to say to Leech, wasn't he just a social worker in a clerical collar? But Soho was already awash with social workers. Avoiding "the parsonic voice, with its precious affected air", he dispensed support in robust Mancunian terms. "I was only doing what priests do everywhere, but in a place and time when people didn't expect to see a priest."

The priestly approach meant "treating everyone as made in God's image, potentially wonderful and glorious. That sounds sentimental, but to recognise people as your equal is to recognise their potential."

Yes, there was a danger, in friendship and support, of colluding in the destructive lifestyles of junkies and rentboys. "But we were operating a crisis ministry, like a hospital casualty department, trying to make their lives less destructive."

Nobody knew what became of his itinerant, ephemeral parishioners. Few ever came back. But every Christmas Eve he gets a call from a grateful female ex-junkie who once overdosed at Centrepoint.

Leech was an only child, born in 1939 in depressed Ashton under Lyne, where the view from his bedroom window was a factory-chimneys scene from Lowry. His mother worked in the cotton mills, then moribund. Hardly anyone in their street went to church (his father died disappointed that Kenneth was not going to become a cartoonist).

Once in London he quickly discovered that pastoral work inexorably led to political commitment. "In those days," Leech says, "the problems of homelessness in London seemed entirely soluble given some political will and imagination. There was enough housing, but there was maldistribution."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



His mentor, the academic Ruth Glass, recognised that the problem was recruitment of workers without provision of housing. "The phrase 'on your bike' had not yet been used but what was said about the early immgrants, that it was their labour that was wanted but not their presence, could have been applied to the young people arriving from the North."

After four years at St Anne's came a turning point in his life. It had exhausted him. "And I had to ask myself, am I communicating anything but my own inner tiredness? I realised that unless I paid attention to my own inner resources, I could be of little use."

Since then, leading a more reflective and contemplative life, he has taught and ministered and written 14 books. His wife Rheta, a nurse, no longer lives with him but they remain friends. Their son is doing a PhD in politics at LSE.

Twenty-five years on he concludes: "You cannot minister to the alienated youth on the streets of London without addressing yourself to the causes of that alienation, and asking fundamental questions about the economy. Or about the appalling increase in discharges of mentally ill patients on to the streets under the obscene name of 'community care'. Or about Third World economies which depend on opium and coca production. Or the ethics of the pharmaceutical industry, and society's dependence on psychoactive chemicals to address personal needs. Or the prevalent feelings of hopelessness."

What he feels is new is the view that homeless young people are a blot on the landscape, offensive to the eye. "When we began they were not visible. There were no young beggars, only elderly alcoholics asking the price of a cup of tea. Nobody then would conceivably suggest, as the Prime Minister does, that the homeless young were on the streets because they had voluntarily chosen to be. Obviously there was a germ of truth in that. But the language of something resembling contempt is quite new."

Nor did they ever envisage the way the problem would grow. "In 1971, we leafleted all the youth clubs in Glasgow warning about the housing problems in London — and I don't think it made any difference at all, because the kids said it can't be any worse down there than it is up here.

"And while most of the young people we worked with were not runaways, and in fact were on friendly terms with their families, we never envisaged the degree of family fragmentation, which means you cannot simply identify new housing policies as the solution point."

One word he refuses to use is "underclass". "It is almost a reversion to Charles Booth's *residuum* or Marx's *lumpen*, people beyond redemption, a definable class about whom we can do nothing except wall them in. I think it is a sloppy and dangerous concept."

What of the goodwill that suffuses us all at Christmas? Mr Leech's letter in *The Times* a week ago has brought in generous cheques from readers who assumed him still to be running Centrepoint, and which he will of course gratefully pass on. Money, he points out, is useful throughout the year. What charitable institutions can less easily utilise is festive-season guilt that inspires our annual interest. At Christmas they are inundated with people offering to help. "But I am not sure how far we can build on the kind of goodwill that evaporates after January 6, without any progress having been made. How can we translate it into positive action? That's a hard one. It is a double-edged sword.

"Clearly more people are aware of the problem than ever," he says. "But the political action seems to be in inverse proportion to awareness."

I think Bob Maxwell saw himself in me

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets newspaper heiress Eleanor Berry, recovering from the stress of a sensational court case

Eleanor Berry is wearing red snakeskin stiletto boots, black leather trousers and a grey V-neck jumper. "Terribly uncomfortable," she barks in her rasping, staccato voice which, on her own account, has been compared to that of an elderly transexual. "I don't know how I ever managed to walk in these. I did it just to please Bob. He liked me in leather."

Bob is the late Robert Maxwell, former proprietor of the *Daily Mirror*. Miss Berry is the youngest child of the late Lady Pamela and Michael Berry, now the life peer Lord Hartwell and former proprietor of *The Daily Telegraph*. She is the granddaughter of the politician F.E. Smith.

They first met at Maxwell's 43rd birthday party at Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, in 1966. Miss Berry was 16 and fell instantly in love. "I was smitten by his sexuality," she says. "I have never seen such a beautiful man in my life. I didn't look at him face on. The next time I saw him I passed out."

It was the start of a lifelong obsession. Miss Berry has devoted her life to pleasing Robert Maxwell. When he read aloud to her in Russian she determined to learn the language secretly to surprise him (it took her six months). When she campaigned for him in the 1974 election, she threatened potential Tory voters with a stick and after Maxwell lost his seat she shinned up the town hall flagpole and replaced the Union Jack with the Red Flag.

To keep herself from harm, Miss Berry wears a locket containing Maxwell's picture around her neck at all times. "I take it off when I'm brushing my teeth and then I put it under my foot, so it is always touching my skin."

We are sitting in semi darkness in Miss Berry's riverside flat in Pimlico, southwest London, drinking vodka and Coke from sherry glasses under a shelf crammed with the works of the Marquis de Sade. We are discussing Miss Berry's memoir: *Robert Maxwell as I Knew Him*, undoubtedly the most amusing book I have read all year. The mirrored walls are packed with pictures of the man she calls her "god": a set of his books line the shelves. "If you had seen him you would have dropped dead," she assures me.

The light is on in the kitchenette illuminating the largest collection of pills this side of a Boots's warehouse. On her bedroom door someone has written in a black sprawling hand: Codicil to Eleanor's Will in Kitchen and indeed an envelope above the cooker pronounces "Originals of codicil to will and other documents."

"The only thing that frightens me is illness," Miss Berry confides, dragging deeply on an ever present Consulate cigarette. "It causes me to smoke because I am so frightened." In her teens she suffered from Valium addiction and schizophrenia and her book relates how she was eventually sectioned after she bit the ear of a man who wrongly engraved her cigarette case.

She suffers from neither now and despite an air of fragility behind the kohl-rimmed eyes, Miss Berry is in fighting form. "I'm very happy being me," she says, topping up her glass with a liberal slug of Smirnoff.

It is not as if recent weeks have been easy: she has spent the past month at Knightsbridge Crown Court listening to the trial of Gida Ratner, the 25-year-old widow of Dr Victor Ratner, who was accused of swindling £17,000 from Miss Berry. Dr Ratner was a dear friend of Miss Berry's — her book relates how the pair of them terrorised Ian Hislop after he insulted Maxwell in *Private Eye*.



Miss Berry: key witness

On Friday, Mrs Ratner, who alleged in the witness box that she had seen her husband and Miss Berry taking cocaine and morphine together, was cleared. Miss Berry responded by describing the widow as "vile" and "despicable".

Miss Berry would love to talk about the trial but has been told to remain silent. "You will print that won't you? Miss Berry has been forbidden by her father to talk about the Ratner trial and naturally she must obey him."

Her father is the only man whom Miss Berry does seem prepared to obey, normally she uses the precepts Maxwell taught her to full effect. "He taught me how to terrify people. Not that there was any bullying in his house, in fact he was the kindest man that I ever met."

She admits, however, that he had mismanaged his pension fund. "The man had lost his marbles. He probably thought he was playing with skittles instead of people's money. He had only one lung so no blood was getting to the brain." Maxwell, Miss Berry is adamant, died accidentally. "He went out the back of the boat to be sick and fell overboard."

Despite her long proximity to Maxwell (she lived at Headington Hill Hall for a year after her landlady in Oxford, where she was studying for A levels, threw her out) Miss Berry never had an affair with him.

"I wish I had! According to the reports of his wife in her brilliant book he was a fantastic lover. I am a great friend of Betty's, but on the spur of the moment I might have done it." She says she speaks to Betty about once a week and occasionally sees Ian, whom she prefers to Kevin. "Recently I got very, very drunk and mistook Ian for his father and there was a rather embarrassing incident."

Miss Berry reels off incidences of Maxwell's kindness to her with dizzying speed. Why did he like you so much, I ask. She replies with habitual honesty. "Maybe because he saw a reflection of himself in me: the vanity, avarice, ambition, not taking any stick from anybody. He said to me one day 'I have come to love you as if you were my own daughter.'"

How did that make you feel? Pause for effect. "It was as if I had had a heroin injection."

Not, she wants to make clear, that she would have liked Maxwell as a father: "I would far rather have my own. I cannot sexually idolise my father, but I adore him with all my heart." Nor would she have liked to have been Maxwell's wife. "I always want to wear the trousers in a relationship, I don't want to be dominated."

We are talking in lowered voices now, because Miss Berry's "friend" has come in and is sitting next to a life-size toy leopard in the bedroom. Doesn't he mind the pictures of Maxwell, I ask. "Yes, but I say you wouldn't mind if I had pictures of Jesus everywhere. Bob was God. My man next door who looks after me is more important."

Like a true believer, Miss Berry is quick to attack those who besmirch Bob's memory. "If anyone says anything, I say 'Your opinions are based on despicable ignorance, if you ever mention his name deprecatingly again in front of me be sure to get the worst.'"

What do you mean by the worst, I ask nervously. Slowly, theatrically, Miss Berry rolls her eyes and points a long fingernail at a picture of the Kray twins on the wall. There is a silence and then she lets out a blood-chilling cackle and leans back in her chair in luxuriant delight.

● Robert Maxwell as I Knew Him *is published by Merlin Books, £5.99*



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Why we go bonkers at Christmas

"Hypermania" is gripping parents as they shop, queue and go quietly mad in the run-up to the festivities

What more comforting message could there be, in these last frenzied days of preparation, than the merciful ruling from Manchester Crown Court that Shaun O'Hare, suffering at the time of his crime from "hypermania", need not go to prison? He gets probation and medical treatment instead. Perhaps the judge had just been Christmas shopping, or seen his wife at it, and thought compassionately that there, but for fortune, go a lot of us.

Admittedly, Mr O'Hare was a bit extreme; but then, he had been dangerously stimulated in his mania. The court heard that he had just been on a pressure-selling course run by some vacuum cleaner manufacturers, where squeaky-clean manic blondes and dynamic pack leaders no doubt told him to Think Positive, Go for Gold, Believe Big, Chase the Challenge, and never to accept no for an answer.

It is a mystery to me that these courses do not drive more people round the bend; I once had a friend who spent three days in a hotel in Guildford for 24-hour conditioning as a salesman of cleaning products. He emerged as a cross between an Old Testament Prophet and Kermit the Frog: sleepless, exalted, babbling, and convinced he was a man of destiny.



LIBBY PURVES

He became furious if anyone cast the slightest doubt on the Product, and said things like: "There isn't such a word as failure," growing aggressive when we showed him the dictionary to prove that there was. After a week, he calmed down and began to recount the details: the revivalist fervour, the air-punching, the choral cries of "Yess!" and "Can do!" and "There is no No!". It unnerved him so much he decided to train as a librarian after all.

Well, Mr O'Hare had been on a selling course and had, indeed, been chucked off it for being too manic even for them. Convinced that "there is no No", he attempted to buy a Volvo 850 motorcar suitable to his new imaginary status. When the salesman explained that his bank thought otherwise, the buyer decided not to accept a negative answer, got in the car, drove it at the salesman, missed, hit two more show cars, crashed through the window and damaged five more cars before the airbag inflated and immobilized him. He admits it all, adding: "I wasn't well at the time." The judge, in mellow mood, believes him.

So do I. It seems to me that if this was full-blown hypermania, than the edges of the same disorder are visible everywhere in the last days before Christmas. We have all been given a pressure-selling course on behalf of the winter festival: bombarded with pictures of happier families, more organized presents, more original yet traditional repasts, more magical stockings, better decorated trees.

An entire page of a national paper last week was devoted to the perfect Tree; one smug ratbag explained that she likes to have a beautifully designed tree in the hall to tone with the decor, and another one out of sight in the nursery for the children to hang their colourful tat on.

Meanwhile Michael Barry on *Food and Drink* has urged us to be adventurous and have a peanut-flavoured Thai-style turkey, and a clutch of cookery writers came up with their usual ridiculous advice on how to treat an unexpected vegetarian visitor at Christmas dinner. Anyone announcing last-minute vegetarian conversion in this house will get a heap of sprouts with a sparkler on top, and like it.

Fired by such perfectionism, who can wonder if a few of us get hypermanic today and tomorrow, running round in circles squeaking about having forgotten the almonds, or lost the key for the clockwork Santa, or thrown away cousin Maurice's card with his address on, or mislaid the entire set of winsome blasted family photographs we were about to frame for Granny?

Out in the streets, the mania is visible everywhere. It has come to my notice that a few weeks ago I wrote a column in praise of slowing down, smelling the roses, taking life gently and savouring every moment. I now wish formally to recant these views. It was criminal to encourage these people. I have spent every spare moment in the last week standing in some queue behind a person who is taking life at a gentle, leisurely pace.

Sometimes it is the railway seat reservations queue — "Now, if I have the SuperApex return, and the free reservation, does that include the Tuesday, or do you think I ought to go for the Family-Saver and come back when my grandchildren do?" muses the lady in front, while a line of us stamp and smite our brows and miss our trains and look round for a Volvo to drive through the nearest window in protest at our frustration.

Sometimes it is the Post Office, where an elderly cove is deep in conversation with the clerk about whether it would be advisable to hold off another day before posting a tub of brandy butter to Greece, "in case it melts in the heat". Sometimes it is the toyshop, where harassed mothers are moving everything along nicely until some member of the leisured godparenting classes decides that a till assistant is just the person with whom to discuss the finer points of child development in relation to various models of Baby Activity Gym.

Such displays of relaxation affect us Christmas hypermanics in the same way that the reasonable, level-spoken Volvo salesman affected Mr O'Hare. Like Mr Toad tied down by boringly level-headed Badger we seethe, we throb, we cannot wait, we Go for Gold, Chase the Challenge, and take the law into our own hands. We restrain ourselves, just. But it is nice to know that when we crack we might only get probation.

Carol-singing, according to recent reports, is a dying art. Determined to refute this heresy, **Giles Coren** set out in Victorian clothes on a cold winter night with five choristers, and proved the cynics wrong



PETER TREVNOR

Islington skies riven with carollers singing: the St Bride's choristers, with Giles Coren, right. "I never thought my children would hear anything like this," said one mother

With songs in their hearts

Tidings of great joy. Rumours of the death of carol singing, put about by media cynics searching for stories of seasonal gloom, are premature. For songs that are sung well, in the Victorian tradition of charity and goodwill, are as welcome as ever they were when Charles Dickens was dreaming up new yule-tide traditions and reinventing the English Christmas we celebrate, or denigrate, today.

If Scrooges at Radio 4's *Today* programme are to be believed, carol singers this Christmas can expect little more than sour faces and slammed doors for their troubles. Recorded voices played on portable stereo equipment, it was claimed, are the only kind to which people will open their doors.

Convinced that this was little more than BBC humbug, I joined a group of choristers from St Bride's Church in Fleet Street to see how a serious serenading would be received. In case beautiful voices should not prove enough to open the hearts and purse strings, I dressed in Victorian clothes and equipped the group with lanterns of the kind regularly swung by wassailers of the gas age. This was to be as traditional a festive scene as ever graced a greetings card, a last chance for the citizens of London to welcome the Christmas spirit into their homes.

We arrived, for the nonce, at Canonbury Square in the borough of Islington. There was a chill in the air and frost on the ground, as deep and crisp and even as it gets on gritted tarmac. Lighting upon a domicile of impressive countenance and festive mien, I summoned the gathering for a few preliminary words of encouragement. "All o' ye, whatever ye do, keep from making a great scuffle on the ground when we go in at people's gates: but go quietly, so as to strike up all of a sudden like spirits."

This was the advice given to the Mellstock Quire of Thomas Hardy's *Under The Greenwood Tree* — testimony to the fact that tempers during the season of goodwill were often as short in 1872 as they can be today. Unwelcome noise was perenially greeted with a bucket of water from a second storey window, and in Hardy's time carol singers tended to arrive at any time between midnight and dawn. That tradition we bypassed, opting for a convivial eight o'clock. But Hardy's suggestions on capturing the magic of the moment were well heeded.

The choir-master hummed a couple of notes, the singers tuned their laryngotracheal instruments, and suddenly "Ding-Dong Merrily On High" was upon us. But how different it was. This was not the dinging and donging of synthesizer or piped department-store muzak. Harmonies played cheerfully on the edges of the main melody, every word was enunciated with the clarity of crisp December air, the five voices sounded like a hundred. I wondered how long I should wait before ringing the bell.

We need not have wondered. Up and down the street doors were already opening, the good burghers of Islington were not waiting to be invited. A man came to the door of the first house and pushed a five-pound note into my Red Cross collecting tin, "you're the only carol singers we've had this year," he said, "it's such a beautiful sound to hear". As I moved down the street, door after door was opened, and families came out onto the cold pavement to offer donations.

This was the sort of street you would expect carol singers to patrol. The houses are large and the cars are expensive. Christmas trees twinkle in windows like advertisements. And no one had bothered. It is not crusty home-dwellers that are the problem. They are just waiting to be sung to, if only someone will sing.

An so to a neighbouring street. Here the houses were taller, and the darkness of the downstairs windows testified to a problem that might beset the modern caroller. In the face, perhaps, of modern fears about urban crime, many wealthy families have vacated the ground-floor of their homes. Bells rung here brought faces to third-storey windows, children propped up on sills waved down at us, but not as many came to the street. With my top-hat and frock-coat they can only have imagined me to be some crazed Victorian footpad a long way from home.



Residents, delighted and surprised, gave generously

Nonetheless, enough doors were opened to suggest that, if carolling were performed more often from door to door, the warmth of the welcome would rapidly return to the glowing Edwardian heat of Mole's hospitality in *The Wind in the Willows*:

"'I think it must be the field-mice,' replied the Mole, with a touch of pride in his manner. 'They go round carol-singing regularly at this time of the year. They're quite an institution in these parts. And they never pass me over — they come to Mole End last of all; and I used to give them hot drinks and supper too sometimes. It will be like old times to hear them again.'"

Old times were waiting for us in a crescent of middle-class houses, where we were offered our first mince-pies. Seven home-baked pies were delivered by a small boy in blue pyjamas, at a home whose glittering tree would have made Mole weep with Christmas joy. Further into the crescent, as the choristers plunged into "See Amid the Winter Snow" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", the sound carried around the arc of houses.

There were requests from children for "In the Bleak Midwinter" and "Past Three O'Clock", and offers of mulled wine. A grey-haired man walking on two crutches made some remarks about the blueness of the sky and poured pound coins into the box. Our carols also chimed with Islington's most celebrated residents, at least to judge by the donation of Tony Blair's wife, Cherie.

Parents rhapsodised. "I never thought my children would hear anything like this," said one mother. "I though people had forgotten how to sing." Her daughter asked me if I was Martin Chuzzlewit. The world was drunk with good-will, and the Red Cross was reaping the reward.

On into the areas behind the Essex Road where trees eschew the *House and Garden* fashion for white lights and one-colour silk baubles, and the response was still as warm. Donations were as generous, delight was, if anything, greater. "We've had a couple of lads round in jeans who growl the first line of 'Silent Night' and then hum the rest," said one woman, "but you never really feel like giving them your money. I thought you only ever heard this kind of thing in church."

The Christmas of Dickensian myth was a classless festivity, and there is no reason why the revival of old traditions need be the chichi preserve of a bourgeoisie already in love with all things Victorian. It is for anyone who, like our 19th-century predecessors, is not afraid of sentimentality. Those afraid that carol-singing is an endangered entertainment can take solace in history. The 18th and 19th-century boom was itself a revival of a medieval "golden age" of carolling. Puritan pressure can squash a proud tradition only temporarily.

Precious voices cannot be exposed to the bleak midwinter for long, and so, with the candles in our lanterns flickering their last weary shadows, we left the drowsy denizens of Islington to their sleep. What they got up to after closing their doors to our singers, only they know. What happened at Mole End, we are told by Kenneth Grahame.

"When the door had closed on the last of them and the chink of the lanterns had died away, Mole and Rat kicked the fire up, drew their chairs in, brewed themselves a last night-cap of mulled ale, and discussed the events of the long day." Perhaps it was something like that.

● *Within an hour, the carol-singing raised £60 for the Red Cross appeal.*

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Philip Howard



■ Bad writing is a kind of mean-spiritedness with the language

Scrooge is 151 this week. And he was born old when he was published on December 17, 1843. Over the decades, the miserable old sinner has become a crusty pedant as well as the eponym for a usurer and a miser. So annually he is haunted by the solecisms of the past year as well as by his other regular reproachful spirits.

Brrrr! brrr! went his portable telephone long past midnight, for Scrooge had kept up *with the times*. "*Thank you for calling*," oozed a smug voice at the other end. "But I didn't call, and I want to complain, not to be thanked," replied Scrooge indignantly. However, the smug voice was gone and in its place there was an oily recording of Bing Crosby crooning "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas".

Just then, confidential Traffic Circular No. 37 (September 1994) from London Underground flapped its buff wings round his bed like a ghostly bug, reminding staff to treat customers with no tickets with the utmost severity. "What are you?" quavered Scrooge. "I am the misspelling of the year from the usual hive of peculiar spelling," squeaked the circular. "See I describe those customers who have no funds as the result of a distressful encounter as 'Bonefide customers' as though they were skeletons." "Bah!" said Scrooge. "Hum off bug!"

At the foot of his bed, a skeleton desk of bonefide hacks had materialised out of the blackness, wearing round their necks the barbarisms they had coined during the year. Many had strange eyes, saying I or myself where they should have said me, and using whom when old-fashioned writers would have scribbled who. One tapped on his keyboard "prurience" with the novel meaning of "prudery". Another said: "He did it at the *bequest* of . . . ", making a portmanteau out of *behest* and *request*. On several, their bylines glowed in the dark. One, labelled Perry Worsthorne, held up a column declaring: "Before I could be *appraised* of this . . . " A burly chap bylined Will Carling said on the record: "This win has *vindicated* all the criticism of us." A harassed spectre named Philip Howard wrote: "They *inculcated* me with . . . " and then regretted his grammar.

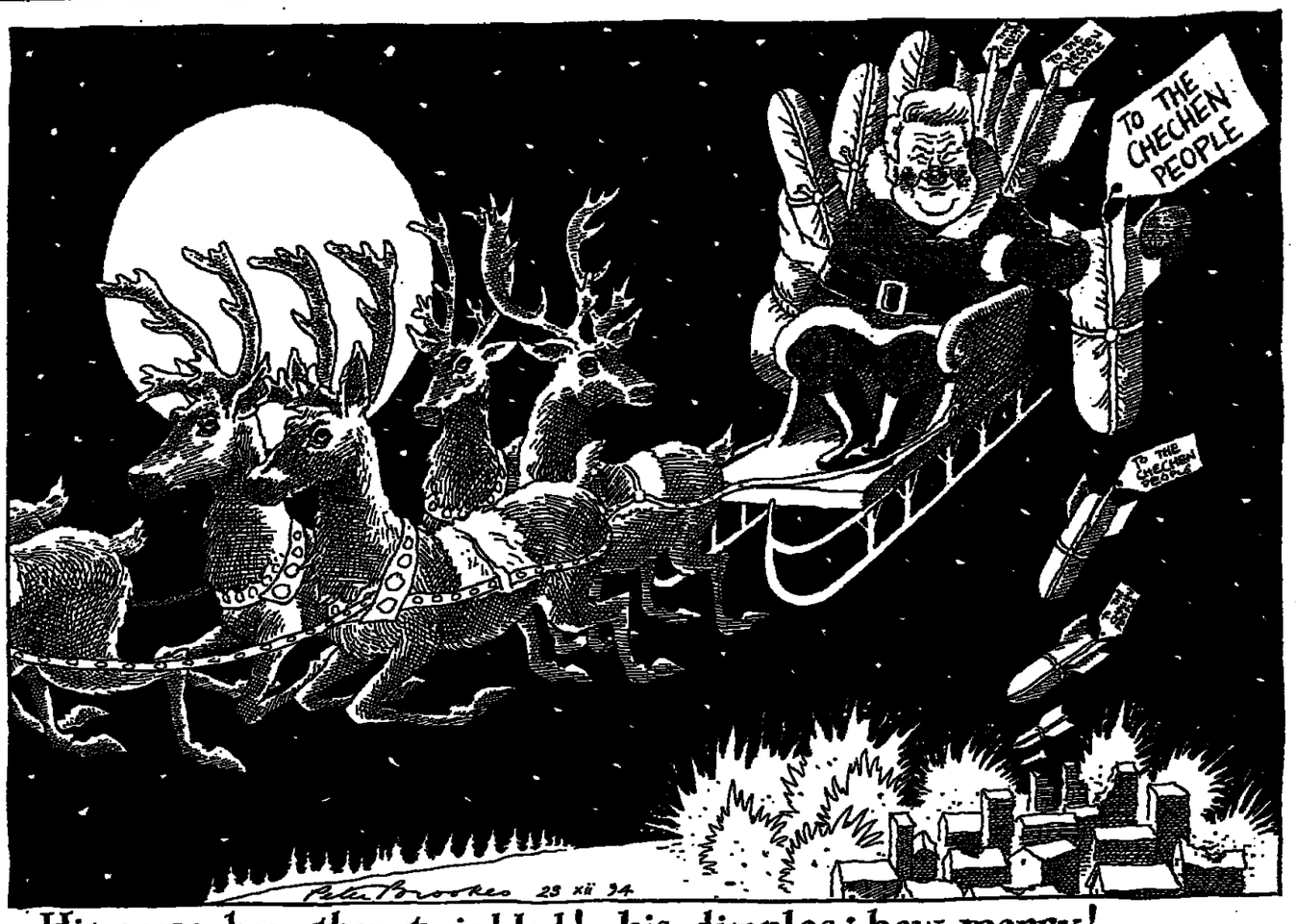
From the dark corner by the television (black-and-white) came a twittering of phantom mispronunciations of the past year, as the announcers and media experts tried to arrange their Estuarian English glottal stops around such Bosnian names as Bihac and Radovan Karadzic and every place-name in Chechenia. There was a chorus as everybody (including David Attenborough) called the Phoenicians the "Pheneeshans", presumably under the influence of beloved Venice.

In the phantasmagoria of ghosts competing for cliché of the year, "agenda" and "bottom lines" were prominent, and "referendums" competed with "referenda" over their plural plebiscitary duplicity. "Key" was a key spirit of emphasis of the year, having progressed from Gordon Brown's attributively "key speech in Cardiff" to the self-standing adjectival use by a British Army major serving with the UN in Bosnia: "An armed withdrawal is key."

"Devastation" was the most shrunken linguistic ghost of the year. From the terrifying sense of total destruction, ravage, plunder and annihilation, it has dwindled to meaning no more than not happy, as in: "We are *devastated* by the accusation made against our team-mate, but we will not allow it to affect our performance."

From the basin, a slippery ghost called Kenneth Baker was groaning about predelictions. He may have meant "predilections", but his new word, suggesting previous offences, fell aptly from the spectral lips of a Home Secretary who got out just in time.

A Christmas Carol is a sentimental fairy-story. But it has deep roots; otherwise it would not have had so long a shelf-life. In his exasperation about change and imperfection, Ebenezer Scrooge represents a part of Dickens and all of us. But we forget that he was altered by the end of the story. So each year he waves his arms to shoo away the ghosts of bad language and resolves to live upon the Total Abstinence Principle with solecisms ever afterwards, and to keep to the Queen's English. And though he is bound to fail, as all mortals are, we wish him better luck next year.



His eyes: how they twinkled! his dimples: how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry... (The Night Before Christmas)

All in the same boat

Even at this season, contemplating our incompetence and petty-mindedness is enough to give one a sinking feeling

Bernard Levin

I know it's Christmas, and I shall be called a rotten spoilsport, but I have two stories I wish to discuss today, and I think that both of them, in their very different ways, say something about our country and its people — nor are the things that speak for us entirely complimentary. You may call me Scrooge for thus stirring the pudding the wrong way round, but if you stop and think about it, you may at least see what I saw, and pause awhile to think.

I begin in hilarity: I have been laughing so much and so frequently about the wonderful QE2 fiasco that I have got hiccups. I once went across the Atlantic, both ways, in the Queen Mary; it was her last voyage, and when it was finished she was to be berthed for ever somewhere on the Pacific side of the United States, though as I recall the people who berthed her for a sightseeing attraction are now tearing their hair out because she is losing huge sums of money. It was the only time I have travelled by ship (when I started going to New York the aeroplane had already become paramount), and although I would not repeat the experience, I am glad to have had it. But back to the fiasco.

Where I discover that the present gargantuan cock-up is by no means the only time that Cunard has been found with its trousers round its ankles. I learn, for instance, that in May 1987, after a £110 million refit in Germany, "cabins flooded, air-conditioning failed, swimming pools were empty and many facilities were out of order". No wonder that the people who run Cunard (if indeed anybody runs it) sail bravely beneath their noble motto, "Blame the Krauts first". And second, too; the following year the poor limping thing had to go back to Germany "for new propellors to make her more efficient". (More efficient? When did it get even ordinarily efficient?) As for when, in August 1992, it hit a rock "causing a 200ft dent below the waterline" with repairs costing £32 million, I dare say that that week's spokesmen for the Cunard-in-waiting (waiting, that is, for the next calamity) were pleased to announce that the rock in question was a German one.

And then, just as I was trying to straighten my face after the hiccups, I learned that the Cunard's spokesman was a Mr Flounders, and I collapsed all over again. And yet again: Mr Flounders's first jewelled words were "We are not having much luck this week — it is all extremely depressing". There was, of course, no sign of a Cunard director as the carnage went on; there was a rumour that the entire Board had committed hara-kiri for the shame, but no such luck: I presume that they had all gone to New York for Christmas — by air, no doubt.

Well, then; you must agree that, in our country, when a huge and important matter is involved, the first thing that happens is that a pack of nerds is whistled up to ruin whatever was going on. And the second thing that happens is that when the ruin has settled in, the nerds have their picture taken. And the third and most important thing, agreed with everyone involved, is that *somebody else was to blame*.

Consider: it might gladden the hardest heart for the benighted travellers to be greeted as they went up the gangway of the stricken vessel (stricken by *somebody else*, remember) with the news that an amazing revolutionary system of flushing toilets had been installed, but when the said hardest heart discovered that the new system consisted of the travellers taking their ice-buckets to flush the toilets by hand, a touch of disappointment might be felt, particularly when the travellers learnt that the ice-buckets were all empty anyway. Moreover, our hard-hearted customer could not be described as joyful at the announcement (which had to be circulated from mouth to mouth, because of course the sound system wasn't working) that the only water available was cold, no more than a dribble, and anyway brown.

I won't get an answer to my next question, but I shall ask it nevertheless. When the ship was about to sail, and the fighting, cursing and weeping on the quay was rising to a climax — to be matched in horror and squalor or even worse by those who had at least got aboard — it surely crossed the minds of the unfortunates that the chaos and unreadiness must have been obvious for weeks or even months before; so why did the ship, in its hopeless condition, sail at all, and (perhaps even more mysterious) why were the customers — who had paid, you should know, substantial thousands of pounds — not told that the ship was weeks or months from being seaworthy?

As I said when I started, the Cunard story does, in a somewhat oblique way, tell us something about ourselves, and some of you may even go so far as to discuss it round the table, after the pudding has been consumed.

Now the other story I promised you is, on the face of it, far away from the QE2 and its misfortunes. The outside is very different, but again the heart of it, properly examined, can teach us something. Anyway, that is how I see it, and anyone is free to ask for another helping of pudding and to go to sleep on the sofa.

There is, hard by Oxford, a magical, fairy place called Garsington. It is a manor house which once held Lady Ottoline Morrell and the Bloomsburys, but it is now the home of a family who love and know music, indeed who love and know all the arts, a Mr and Mrs Ingrams. One day, a few years ago, they had a notion; why should they not stage a miniature Glyndebourne? Why not indeed? So the wondrous Ingrams gardens soon echoed to the operas of Rossini and Haydn and Richard Strauss (but no Wagner — he really wouldn't fit in such gentle surroundings) and even to works much more esoteric. And, although the audience gets wet if it rains, the thing has been a tremendous success.

It is a lovely thought, is it not? On a balmy night, as the strains of genius mingle with those of the birds themselves, anyone might say with Shakespeare:

> Be not afeard: the isle is full of noises,
> Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not.

But those sounds and sweet airs were not so sweet for some villagers, including a Miss Waud, who claimed that the music spoiled the pleasures of her garden and even broke her sleep. In the court proceedings which (alas for give-and-take) followed, Miss Waud was said by the defence to have a vendetta against the opera, and it was said that when the village committee met to discuss the opera it was "Whenever we had a vote in the Garsington Society about the opera it was 13 or 14 to one with Miss Waud the objector". And then (how I thank my stars that I was born urban man personified!) Mrs Ingrams found two diseased lime trees in her beautiful gardens, and — naturally and sensibly — cut them down, lest they infect others. Ah, but she didn't know that it was a crime to cut down protected trees, even diseased ones, without permission, and someone in the local council spotted them and — incredibly — she was fined £400 with £568 in costs. And (alas, alas) Miss Waud was the main witness against the Ingramses and their dead trees.

And the Ingramses have also been fined because of the "noise" that that frightful fellow Mozart and his hideous screechings make, and now the village is divided, and it is possible that their opera-in-the-garden will be silenced for ever, and — don't laugh — someone might take it into his (or her) head to complain to the appropriate authority in East Sussex that the noise that Glyndebourne makes keeps his pet rabbit from getting enough sleep.

And now do you see that I was telling one story, not two? For if incompetence and laziness are to be found in one side of our country, petty-mindedness and prejudice are to be found just as readily, and put together they make a sorry brew. When did give-and-take die? When did pride in good work wither? Who invented the game called Bugger-Your-Neighbour, and whoever he was, how did he fail to notice it was harming himself, not others?

It is at new year, not Christmas, that we resolve to do better, but I don't see why we can't reflect on the dying year, and at least have an opinion or two. Meanwhile, I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and be assured that I am merry as a grig, whatever that may be.

The most unpopular invasion

Richard Beeston on Russia's attitude to Chechenia

When a young gunnery officer named Leo Tolstoy wanted to air his misgivings about the Tsar's brutal campaign to conquer the Caucasus, he found the authorities unsympathetic to his moral dilemma. Although at first keen to embark on what he described as a "frivolous" adventure, he began to have second thoughts as he witnessed the scale of the misery inflicted on local tribesmen in the name of Russia's imperial ambitions. In the first of many brushes with the official censor, whole passages of Tolstoy's short story "The Raid" were deleted from the periodical *Sovremennik* ("The Contemporary"), when the author dared to question the glory of the bloody conflict underway on Russia's southern borders.

A century-and-a-half and many conflicts later, young Russian soldiers are again fighting over the same rugged land, with comparable technological advantages over the lightly armed bands of resistance fighters. This time, however, the doubts of the young men being sent into action, and the general public sentiment against the war are being printed and broadcast as never before in a Russian conflict.

In the mainstream Russian press, from the respected liberal evening paper *Izvestia* to the pro-nationalist *Sovetskaya Rossiya* and the usually pro-Yeltsin *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, readers are being treated to a steady diet of anti-war articles which makes the Vietnam War look like a PR coup for the Pentagon by comparison.

Even before the fighting began in earnest in Chechenia this week, soldiers were grumbling about low morale and the futility of the fight. Major-General Ivan Babichev, the bear-like commander of the Pskov airborne division, became a hero overnight for halting his advance towards the capital, Grozny, and assuring tearful old Chechen women that his armoured column would not wage war against civilians.

While the plight of the besieged civilian population is being described graphically in newspaper articles and on television, the official version of events receives scant and usually derisory attention. The new head of the government press service had only been in the job a few days when *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* published a front-page article comparing him to Josef Goebbels. The military's euphemisms for war — equivalents of the phrase "collateral damage", coined in the Gulf conflict to describe civilian casualties — have also been ridiculed. *Izvestia* this week demanded to know why the authorities could not bring themselves to confirm eyewitness accounts of civilian deaths and damage, instead of insisting that "surgical strikes against strategic targets" were carried out in the "military operation of disarmament".

The press has had longer than most institutions to establish independent roots in Russia — since the Gorbachev era of glasnost — so its strong opposition to the intervention in Chechenia is less surprising than the attitude of the country's political and military establishments. The Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, may only be a year old, but politicians across a broad spectrum, from liberals to communists, have repeatedly and angrily denounced the current military operation. Some MPs have even stuck it out in the capital Grozny, determined where possible to intervene on the ground to halt the fighting. The only major force in politics apart from the Kremlin leadership to endorse the action is the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovsky, whose warmongering rhetoric won so much support in last year's election. Nevertheless, while he is backing the campaign, Mr Zhirinovsky is astute enough as a politician to interpret the result of opinion polls, which consistently show that 70 per cent of the population is opposed to military intervention. The usually rabble-rousing *populist has been noticeable by his* absence from the debate taking place in Russia.

Similarly, the armed forces, which many suspected were itching for a new conflict to help to invigorate the demoralised troops and to secure extra funding for the military budget, have reacted with horror to the prospect of becoming embroiled in civil strife. It is not only that the war in Chechenia threatens to become a new insurgency like Afghanistan, but also that the Kremlin is once again using the army to get itself out of a tight spot of its own making. The grumbling from the soldiers on the ground is being echoed even more forcefully by General Boris Gromov, the deputy defence minister and last Soviet commander in Afghanistan, and Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, another Afghan veteran, who is widely regarded as the most popular commander in Russia's armed forces today.

There is a case for the Kremlin's action to reimpose its authority on an area of Russia where the mafia has ruled for three years, but then the Kremlin has been its own worst enemy. No one in power has been willing to take responsibility for the operation. Twelve days into the action, it is still not clear which general is actually in charge. Perhaps the ministry is taking its cue from the country's commander-in-chief, President Yeltsin. He has not been seen in public since ordering his troops into the breakaway republic — nominally because of a routine "nose operation", which has conveniently kept him bedridden for nearly two weeks.

Où est le boeuf?

THE BULLSHOT, a famous Christmas hangover cure among the gentry, is in jeopardy. Supplies of a vital raw ingredient for the vodka-laced stiffener, which is taken liberally throughout London's clubland, have dried up after 150 years of (over-) consumption.

The drink is a variant on a Bloody Mary. It combines a generous measure of vodka with the unclarified beef-based broth *boeuf bouillon*. Worcester sauce, celery salt, lemon juice, pepper and tabasco are added to taste.

Hannell's, the Mayfair grocer, is Britain's sole supplier of the tinned *boeuf bouillon* necessary to make the cocktail. It has run out. "Campbells, who make it in the United States, are reluctant to export any more to England because of the rarefied market. Consommé simply won't do as an alternative, because it has gelatine in it," says Peter Ventham, managing director at Hannell's.

Campbells — in Paris, Texas — was unavailable for comment yesterday, but Wilton's restaurant in Jermyn Street is jumpy. "We have just taken possession of the last Hannell's consignment. We don't know what to do." Hannell's also supplies Fortnum & Mason, White's, the Turf Club, Boodle's and a list of aristocrats "as long as one's arm". Boodle's admits to grave concern. "We have not had any for two weeks now, and it is one of the most requested club aperitifs. We're having to recommend Bloody Marys." London's social gadfly Dai Llewellyn enjoyed a Bullshot only yesterday at lunch, and is appalled at the situation. "Gentlemen will be rounding up cattle and boiling them down to make *bouillon*," he warns darkly.



THE TIMES DIARY

● *Wending my way through the Palace of Westminster this week, I came across a room of deafening disco music and raucous revellers. Extra security was drafted in to restrict numbers at what was clearly the liveliest party of the year: the annual policemen's ball.*

One's miff

THERE is apprehension at Buckingham Palace over the state of Italian politics. And it is not Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned yesterday as Italy's Prime Minister, who is the concern.

Regal nerves are twitching because Francesco Cossiga, a former President of the republic, has emerged as a leading candidate to succeed Berlusconi. Cossiga marked his card some years ago when he stood up the Queen. In 1987, he cancelled a presidential state visit to Britain the day before he was due. It was the first such cancellation for 20 years, and a state banquet for 300 had to be abandoned.

Counter attack

LABOUR'S deputy leader, John Prescott, has taken offence at a seemingly inconsequential advertisement for a board game. He objected to the use of his photograph in an advert for Trivial Pursuit, accompanied by the caption: "As irrelevant today as it's always been."

Hasbro, makers of the game, have since donated £400-worth of board games to the Seafarers' Hardship Fund in Prescott's Hull constituency. "I was unhappy about my photograph being used to endorse Trivial Pursuit," says Prescott. "But I am glad to see the season of goodwill spreading."

All change

SHE MAY have suffered an appalling car crash earlier this year, but I am delighted to report that the accident has not dented the career of Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*.

Whitburn has just been promoted to take over all radio drama emanating from BBC Pebble Mill in Birmingham. Her forerunner as head of radio drama at Pebble Mill, Nigel Bryant, has opted for a radical career change: he left this week to become head of drama at Marlborough College.



Painting a bleak midwinter: Hart's card

Paint it blue

A HOMELY touch from the redoubtable individual who advised Baroness Thatcher during the 1984 miners' strike from his suite at Claridge's. David Hart, a right-wing intellectual who is now special adviser to Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, has sent out a photograph of himself surrounded by paintpots. A stepladder is nearby.

Hart limply holds a cigar and looks decidedly depressed in his flat cap and cords. The card's caption: "We'll be in by Christmas!", should not be misinterpreted by politicians. It merely reflects how decorations at his Suffolk home are progressing.

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

GOLDEN ENGLISH

Item One in the great debate on Britain and the world

Every child in this country grows up with a goldmine in his or her mouth. English is the mother tongue of 350 million people. Overwhelmingly it is also the globe's second language: one out of every five people now speaks English to some level of competence, and it is used as an official language in over 70 countries. The demand for the mongrel tongue of the Saxon tribes that settled in these isles 1,500 years ago is growing at a rate that even Dr Zamenhof, the inventor of Esperanto, never envisaged. By the year 2000 it is estimated that there will be one billion learners of English, hoping to use their new language for commerce, air traffic control, scientific research and even, to the chagrin of the French, for diplomacy. Already 80 per cent of all electronically stored information is in English.

The Government's decision to open a far-reaching debate on Britain's place is the world in March will rightly focus on English as an asset whose potential has hardly yet been realised. However great our political disenchantment with European integration, Britain's linguistic hegemony is beyond doubt: two out of every five Frenchmen now speak reasonable English, as do three out of every five Germans and five out of every five Dutchmen. And with the language comes much more: anyone who learns English learns something also of this nation's thought, culture, attitudes and lifestyle. More is known on the Continent of Britain than ever will be known of Russia, Spain or Sweden. Knowledge alone does not guarantee empathy; but those who master a foreign tongue imbibe with it an understanding of, and often liking for, a people and its literature.

Britain already has two effective channels to disseminate its culture and language: the British Council and the BBC World Service. Both organisations have had their bad years when they were seen as an indulgence in grandeur and a refuge for the inefficient and effete. The British Council can claim, however, to be probably the most effective pump-priming cultural organisation in the world. On a tiny budget, it has both boosted the demand for English language teaching and satisfied it. That industry is now worth some £500 million a year to Britain and, while making money, has also projected British culture deep into dictatorial regimes. Vaclav Havel, the Czech president, was one of many dissidents who studied English while in detention; in office, he repaid his debt by opening the new British Council centre. So strong is the demand for the Council's work in Germany that the Germans fund around 75 per cent of its work there.

The BBC World Service was paid one of its greatest compliments by Mikhail Gorbachev, who called it his lifeline to the outside world during the 1991 coup. BBC English By Radio builds on the Corporation's reputation for reliability and is the preferred listening of entrepreneurs in Thai villages or Turkish bazaars. The rapid expansion of World Service Television was given a new boost by this week's breakthrough into the American market. And where the BBC and the British Council have linked forces, as in China, they have projected English so successfully that Kate Flower, the British star of the "Follow Me" series for China, is a houshold face in tens of millions of homes.

English brings obvious commercial benefits in its wake; most Japanese investment in concentrated here because of the language. But there is no room for complacency. Others are catching up. Australia, too, is capitalising on the language. India, Malaysia and other countries once tried to reduce the prevalance of English for political reasons; now they have reversed course in order to stay ahead on the information superhighways. India is now one of the largest publishers of books in English. The language may eventually lose its association with Britain; but not yet. Every native speaker has an exploitable asset. But, remember, foreigners are mastering it fast.

ULSTER'S GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A moment of peace for the people of the Province

A year ago, the people of Belfast walked the streets of their battered city in very different mood. The ink on the Downing Street declaration was barely dry and, as so often in the past, hopes of "peace by Christmas" had subsided quietly. The horrors of Warrington and the Shankill Road blast were fresh in the memory. The Heathrow attacks and countless sectarian shootings were still to come. Peace was a distant prospect.

It is still distant today. In spite of the IRA ceasefire, many obstacles to a lasting settlement lie ahead of the people of Ulster. Sensitivities become more acute at moments of great expectation, especially where suffering has been as prolonged as it has in the Province. Yesterday, for example, there was a flurry of alarm at the number of prisoners being released in Northern Ireland to spend time with their families over Christmas. In fact, about 100 fewer are being released than last year; most of them have no connection to terrorist organisations. No new concession is being made. Yet the anxiety which these paroles have generated is itself revealing of the tensions that may lie ahead.

There remains the central question of IRA and Loyalist paramilitary arms and what should be done with them. The joint framework document which is to be issued by the British and Irish Governments next year is bound to inflame the Unionist community. Moreover, although the declaration succeeded in bringing Sinn Fein to the table, many within IRA ranks remain deeply sceptical about its concessions. The heaviest burden of the peacemaker is to maintain a sense of realism and those who undertake this work in the New Year face a task of awesome complexity.

For now, however, it is worth celebrating with the people of Ulster the moment of peace which they have won. As Cardinal Daly, the Roman Catholic primate of all Ireland, put it yesterday, this Christmas is for the Province "the most special in 25 years". It is time, he said, to consider, "the people who are walking the streets enjoying Christmas with their families who would be dead if not for the ceasefires". This humane sentiment should cut through all sectarian lines and scepticism about the peace process. The future of the talks is uncertain. But the fact that blood is not being spilt and the ceasefire has lasted for more than three months is a blessing. On this simple point, all may be united.

The greatest gift the people of Northern Ireland could be given in the next year is to become masters of their own destiny. They will soon have their own assembly. With the ceasefire has come a welcome burst of investment. But it is the host of small changes in everyday life that will mean most if the peace holds. Some retailers yesterday reported a 30 per cent increase in last-minute Christmas shoppers. The people of Ulster, in other words, are starting to enjoy to the full the routines and pleasures which other Britons take for granted. Peace, as Yeats wrote, comes dropping slow. But it does so sweetly.

A SPORTING RESHUFFLE

If Pelé is Brazil's minister, can Britain not have Brearley?

Where have you gone Joe di Maggio?
Our nation turns its lonely eyes to you.
Woo woo woo.

In *Mrs Robinson*, one of the great modern songs of disenchantment, Simon and Garfunkel expressed a yearning — widely shared — for the integrity that is thought to set sporting heroes on a higher plane. The lowest plane, the duo concluded damningly, is reserved for politicians:

Sitting on a sofa on a Sunday afternoon,
Going to the candidates' debate,
Laugh about it, shout about it,
When you've got to choose,
Every way you look at it you lose.

In our demotic age, no activity has produced a greater abundance of popular icons than sport. In appointing Edson Arantes do Nascimento — better known by his sobriquet, Pelé — to the post of Special Minister for Sports, the newly-elected President of Brazil has not just paid homage to the most gifted footballer ever to have caressed ball with boot; he has sought also to slake the thirst for "that better and noble morality which is the recompense of sport and competition between men".

Mrs Robinson's di Maggio may have "left and gone away, hey-hey-hey", but Pelé's game has now gone into extra time. Endearingly, so too has Sunil Gavaskar's. The former captain of India was yesterday sworn in as the ninety-ninth sheriff of Bombay. (What has not been satisfactorily explained is why that swarming metropolis — all Indian but with no cowboys — should have a sheriff at all).

What of Britain? In recent years we remember the political and sporting feats of Christopher Chataway and Philip Noel-Baker — both influential MPs and successful Olympians. We still have Sebastian Coe, a somewhat more successful athlete than parliamentarian. Aside from these, there are a few politicians who have been quite good at shooting pheasants. But that hardly counts as a sport for these purposes. Many more politicians by far have excelled at scoring own-goals, hitting below the belt or running their colleagues out in a metaphorical sense.

If this is the season for indulgent speculation, what better way to while away the time than to devise a British cabinet of sportsmen. The task is not an easy one: British sportsmen have, on the whole, ceased to be outstanding. And the few who have been so are as unsuitable for public office as the politicians they would replace. Ian Botham was a cricketing giant who would be woefully miscast as any sort of minister. Linford Christie, explosive runner, is not to the debating manner born. And if Paul Gascoigne were Speaker of the House could Vinny Jones as Tory Whip be far behind?

Wags might suggest Bruce Grobelaar as President of the Board of Trade. Those more serious would propose Mike Brearley for the Home Secretary's job: on memorable occasions, the former England captain snatched victory for his team from the jaws of defeat. After the Woodcock Report on the Whitemoor jailbreak, the present Home Secretary could surely use some of Brearley's skills.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Ethics of keeping Hindley in jail

From Mr J. S. Richardson

Sir, The case of Myra Hindley presents us with a dilemma (letters, December 14, 16). Society passes judgment on its members because it believes that human beings are morally responsible. Furthermore, society has (and retains) the right to pass judgment because it acts in a morally responsible way and thereby occupies the moral high ground. It is this understanding of human dignity and society's position that acts as a constraint upon society and prevents mere acts of revenge.

I believe that an essential human right is hope. I would argue that since society must always act in a morally responsible way, and without fear or favour, it must either judge Myra Hindley's crimes to be so serious as to warrant the loss of her life or it must give her the hope that her freedon will one day be restored. To do neither and to imprison her until she dies is to leave her with life but to deprive her of hope, which is bordering on torture and is certainly to act inhumanely.

I remain, yours faithfully,
J. S. RICHARDSON,
The Headmaster's Lodge,
Culford School, Culford,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
December 18.

From Mr David L. Astor

Sir, A phrase, which Frank Longford and I deeply regret, in our recent letter (December 14) has been misinterpreted as equating Myra Hindley with the entirely innocent Jews massacred by cynically misguided Germans. It was, of course, the hatred and fear of Jews cultivated by the Nazis that we were equating with the comparable hatred and fear of Miss Hindley cultivated by certain newspapers.

Now that she has been given the Government's decision not to release her (report, December 17) those papers have been celebrating with a champagne party for two mothers of victims. That they have, indeed, achieved their aim is now shown in the Home Office's letter to Miss Hindley. This reveals how successive governments have progressively revised her sentence upwards from a minimum of 25 years to 30 years till, finally, in 1990 the then Home Secretary, Mr David Waddington, in effect sentenced her to die in prison.

What criterion could possibly have justified these ministerial increases? Was Miss Hindley reported as becoming more and more dangerous? The favourable recommendations of the parole committee, which has all the available information, show that this was not the case. So what else could have influenced Home Secretaries other than the public clamour stimulated by interested newspapers? And, is it healthy that governments have been swayed by this fear and hatred?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. ASTOR,
24 St Ann's Terrace, NW8.

'The Right path'

From Mr Julian Critchley, MP for Aldershot (Conservative)

Sir, I much regret that in my piece in today's *Times* ("The Right path to defeat") absence through illness caused me to confuse Alan Duncan with Iain Duncan Smith — only one of whom is likely to end his days as a "knight of the shires".

Yours etc,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY,
House of Commons.
December 22.

Anglo-French praise

From Mr S. R. Lancelyn Green

Sir, Rear-Admiral Yves de Kersauson (letter, December 19) is generous about French respect for Nelson. May I reciprocate?

In 1842 my great-great-grandfather purchased a French clock surmounted by a massive bronze tableau depicting "Napoleon on the bridge at Arles . . . He seized the standard which was on the point of falling into enemy [plainly British] hands".

My relative's respect for the French was not misplaced: the clock continues to keep excellent time over 150 years later.

Yours faithfully,
S. R. LANCELYN GREEN,
Poulton Hall,
Poulton Lancelyn, Bebington, Wirral.

Fears of further Rwanda genocide

From Mr Colin Legum

Sir, There is evidence of a second round of Rwandan genocidal killing in the making, possibly this time also enveloping Burundi. Unless it can be prevented, this new holocaust is likely to begin within the next three months.

The defeated Rwanda army in exile and their accomplice killers, the *Interhamwe*, are actively preparing to invade Rwanda in order to reverse the takeover by the Tutsi-dominated military regime. They have tanks and weapons and have been seen by observers in training every day.

The bulk of their army and weaponry is in Goma, Zaire, from where it is logistically difficult to mount a successful counter-attack. This could come only from Bukavu through the Nyungwe forest in Burundi. Already, Rwandan troops and weaponry are being moved, unhindered, from Goma to Bukavu.

If such attacks were made from Bukavu, along the border of Burundi, it would predictably push that country over the knife-edge on which it has been perched since the outbreak of violence in Rwanda.

Burundi's population (roughly 80 per cent Hutu and 18 per cent Tutsi) is similar in composition to Rwanda's. Burundi would then become a second Rwanda; but even if Burundians were not put to the knife, any counter-attacks by the exile Hutus would start a new round of brutal killings in Rwanda.

Western and African governments have tried to get negotiations going between the new regime in Kigali and "moderate" Hutu leaders, with little success. Nor is it likely that such efforts will be successful before the new regime in Kigali understands that it cannot hope to maintain its minority power, and the defeated Hutus learn that they cannot re-establish a government that deprives Tutsis of their rights.

The obvious need is to surround the Hutu military camps in Goma and Bukavu to prevent any further attempt at cross-border military operations, while putting pressure on the Kigali regime to negotiate with respected Hutu leaders. Any attempt to bottle up the exile fighters is bound to meet with military resistance, yet if this risk is not taken, the international community will be left wringing its hands helplessly.

Yours etc,
COLIN LEGUM,
Wild Acre, Plaw Hatch,
Nr Sharpthorne, West Sussex.
December 22.

Caesarean births

From Mr John Friend

Sir, Dr Colin Francome (letter, December 12) hoped to resolve my doubts over a "rapidly" rising Caesarean section rate by describing how he had compared data on 281,000 deliveries in 1992 and 1993. He states that the rise in rates was an average of 2.4 per cent which is the largest ever increase in the rates.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists collects annual statistics from every maternity unit in the United Kingdom which is recognised for specialist training purposes — the very small number of births outside these units, which are mainly low-risk, would not be identified.

An initial analysis of 735,398 deliveries in 1992 and 720,705 deliveries in 1993 shows a Caesarean section rate of 14.5 per cent for 1992 and 15.3 per cent for 1993. Nobody knows what is the optimal Caesarean section rate — the current United Kingdom rate is below that of America and above some other European countries. We need up-to-date data which would allow us to assess the risks related to modern Caesarean section operations.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FRIEND
(Public Relations Officer,
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists),
Derriford Hospital,
Plymouth, Devon.
December 13.

Solicitors' complaints

From Mr Terence J. Blackford

Sir, I read with interest Frances Gibb's article (December 9) on the National Consumer Council's adverse report on the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, headed "Complaints given shoddy treatment by lawyers' body".

As it is now a professional practice rule that each solicitor gives written notification of the complaints procedure at the commencement of each file, it follows that the number of complaints has risen.

My impression of complaints handling is that the majority of the criticisms are against the system rather than the individual solicitor. The complainant knows that they can complain for as long as they want to about the most trivial of matters, at no expense to themselves.

The Lord Chancellor has recently indicated that legal aid cannot continue to meet unlimited demands, yet the National Consumer Council appears to think that the SCB should do so. There would of course be no magic to cutting down the number of complaints against solicitors as all the SCB would have to do would be charge a nominal fee of say £5 for the registration of each complaint.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. BLACKFORD,
Belmores (solicitors),
Goodchild House,
27 Castle Meadow, Norwich, Norfolk.
December 12.

Busy shipyard

From Mr Kjell Ursin-Smith

Sir, Barbara Simons (letter, December 12) will be pleased to know that on the very day her letter appeared, asking whether British shipyards were now only equipped to make replica wooden ships, we named a new 37,500-tonne ship at Govan on the Clyde. It is one of a series of chemical carriers, all being sold abroad.

Since we acquired the Govan shipyard in 1988 we have invested some £40 million there in new plant and equipment, and the yard has moved from losses of £45 million a year to a modest profit. It is now in the midst of a productivity drive with the trade unions which will lead to the best ships that Norwegian know-how and Scottish skills can build.

Yours sincerely,
KJELL URSIN-SMITH
(Managing Director),
Kvaerner Holding UK Ltd,
Ryder Court, 14 Ryder Street, SW1.
December 12.

Doubled and halved

From Mr Stuart Grant

Sir, Mr John Skinner (letter, December 16) should refer to his solicitor if he wants an equivalent to the price of *The Times* which he cited of twice (at least) the value for half (at the very least) the cost. After reading his letter I looked out a 1980 conveyancing file at random. The property concerned was sold for £38,500, and my firm's fee was £290.

On Tuesday this week I completed a transaction at £118,500, for which my firm's fee was a mere £300.

I don't imagine that you thought you were overcharging in 1980, any more than we did. Perhaps it is remarkable that we are both still in business!

Yours faithfully,
STUART GRANT (partner),
Sheppards (solicitors),
The Courtyard,
120 High Street,
Nailsea, nr Bristol, Avon.
December 16.

Miller mix-up

From Mr Jonathan S. Hawes

Sir, It is Lynne Truss's memories which are dusty, not the miller in Camberwick Green (television review, December 19). He was Windy Miller.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN S. HAWES,
Laburnum Cottage,
Beadles Lane,
Old Oxted, Surrey.
December 19.

Wrong crusade?

From Mr Dafydd Evans

Sir, "Major plans crusade to put Great back into Britain", ran your headline today.

Perhaps he would be better off trying to put United back into the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
DAFYDD EVANS,
47 Ladbroke Grove, W11.
December 22.

Universities in crisis

From the Chief Executive of the Association of University and College Lecturers

Sir, Although there may be relatively little difference in attitude between the members of "old" university councils and "new" university governing bodies (Education, December 12), there is a considerable difference in the outcomes of their operations.

It is not by chance that problems have predominantly occurred in those universities and colleges whose pattern of governance was laid down by the 1988 Education Reform Act. There are three checks on maladministration in the "old" universities which do not exist in the "new".

First, the old universities benefit from the greater number of academics than lay people on their councils, since the institution can only be a part-time interest to local industrialists and businessmen.

Secondly, the academic representatives on councils, unlike their counterparts on the governing bodies of the new universities, are not excluded from financial and senior management decisions.

Thirdly, when problems do occur, the staff in the old universities can make representations beyond their own structures to their university's "visitor".

Your correspondents are right to point out that the "chronic" crisis in higher education is related to the lack of accountability of governing bodies: but it is more than that. The lack of checks and balances allows crises to be generated out of resolvable problems.

The 1988 Act largely ignored the experience which the "old" universities had built up, and the 1992 Further and Higher Education Act further weakened the position of academic representation by allowing the governing body to decide whether they wanted staff on the board.

It is to be hoped that the recent experiences will be used as the foundation for reforming these Acts.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE CHEESMAN,
Chief Executive,
Association of University and College Lecturers,
104 Albert Road,
Southsea, Hampshire.
December 13.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 071-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

Time for Major to apologise?

From Mr Mohamed Al Fayed

Sir, The Prime Minister has at least one piece of unfinished business which he ought to take care of before bidding farewell to 1994.

In reply to an oral question in the House of Commons on October 25, Mr Major lent his authority to a scurrilous allegation of blackmail against me. Following his lead, a number of other MPs took the opportunity of making other equally unfounded allegations against me under the protection of parliamentary privilege (report, November 3).

On November 25 the Crown Prosecution Service, having received a report from the Metropolitan Police, issued a public statement making it clear that I had committed no criminal offence, adding that no further investigation was warranted (report, November 26). Naturally, I expected that the Prime Minister would take the earliest opportunity to set the record straight in the place where the matter was originally raised, the House of Commons. But silence followed.

On December 12 my solicitors wrote to the Speaker of the House of Commons, pointing out the clear duty the Prime Minister owed to the House to withdraw the sting of the allegations, which had been given widespread currency. On the following day their four pages of cogent argument were dismissed in four lines, the Speaker citing the Bill of Rights 1689 as the guarantee of freedom of speech in Parliament.

I am fully in favour of freedom of speech, but I believe that no other private citizen this century has been named as I was. If the Prime Minister had anything resembling proper legal advice he must have known there was no question of a charge of blackmail being brought; yet he recklessly made an answer to a question which was calculated to do me as much damage as possible.

I persist in believing Mr Major to be a fair and honourable man and therefore invite him now to draw a line under this affair by stating its outcome clearly at the dispatch box. An apology might be nice, too. Should he decline to make one, some people might believe him to be the opposite of fair and honourable and might even say so, without the protection of parliamentary privilege.

Yours faithfully,
M. AL FAYED
(Chairman), Harrods Ltd,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
December 21.

All systems go

From Mr S. J. Johnson

Sir, A combination of BMW and RR (reports, December 19, 20). BRRWM possibly? Or perhaps the more teutonic WRRMB?

Yours faithfully,
S. J. JOHNSON,
Wilton House,
Mirfield, West Yorkshire.
December 20.

From Mr Michael J. Gordon

Sir, I note that Norman Blackwell, who is to take over as head of the Downing Street policy unit, has a "Rolls-Royce mind" (report, December 22). I trust it is not powered by a German engine.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. GORDON,
Rissington Mill,
Little Rissington, Gloucestershire.
December 22.

Season's bleatings

From Miss Christine N. Reeves

Sir, Christmas circulars? Round robins (letters, December 22, etc)? Humbug! Open a bottle of wine, take it and a glass (and an egg-timer if inclined) and telephone all those who usually receive your Christmas missive. That way you hear their news as well, do not have to bother with Christmas cards and can tell them it's their turn to make the Christmas call next year. . .

Yours faithfully
(with warmest seasonal greetings),
CHRISTINE N. REEVES,
143 Lower Richmond Road, SW15.
December 18.

From Captain Roy Clare, RN

Sir, Looking to reduce the number of cards we send next year, my wife and I propose to delete those who — after years apart — merely sign their card with no hint of news. Next will be those who include circulars.

Festively yours, in longhand,
ROY CLARE,
Lomond, 36 Siskin Close,
Bishops Waltham, Hampshire.
December 22.

From the Dean of Lichfield

Sir, If I wished to complain about the secularisation of Christmas (Mr George Medd's letter, December 22) I would do so to God, not to the Editor of *The Times*. I wouldn't mention robins, either.

Yours roundly,
TOM WRIGHT,
The Deanery,
Lichfield, Staffordshire.
December 22.

Business letters, page 21

COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
December 22: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 22: The Prince of Wales: Colonel, Welsh Guards, this afternoon received Brigadier John Rickett, Welsh Guards, upon relinquishing his appointment as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.

World's earliest cotton textiles are found

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE world's earliest cotton textiles have been found in eastern Jordan. Consisting of impressions in plaster and a few surviving threads, they are more than 2,000 years older than previously known specimens from Pakistan.

The cotton fabric itself could have been imported into the desert site of Dhuweila from either India or Nubia, via Mesopotamia and the Arabian Sea trade, say Dr Alison Betts and her colleagues in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*. Dhuweila was a neolithic hunting camp, and an unlikely place for textile production.

Dr Betts believes that the cloth was probably scrap fabric by the time it was pressed onto the surface of the plaster, for an undeterminable reason. "Modern Bedouin frequently make use of fabric scraps for a variety of purposes: these may have been picked up in a town or village and accidentally discarded at Dhuweila", she says.

Dr Catherine McClintock identified the surviving threads as cotton at Queen's University, Belfast, and showed that at least two of the nine impressed fragments were of yarn in which both the initial spinning and the subsequent plying were done in the same direction. They were "Z-spun", typical of Indian and other Asian linen textiles, while Egyptian linen was made from "S-spun" thread.

Linen itself is known from as early as the seventh millennium BC at Nahal Hemar cave in Israel and Çatal Hüyük in Turkey, but the earliest known cotton textiles hitherto have been from around 2000 BC at Mohenjodaro in Pakistan. Cotton was not known in the Near East before 1000 BC until Dr Betts' discovery.

Radiocarbon dating of the Dhuweila threads places them between 4450 and 3000 BC, several thousand years prior to all previous discoveries. The origin of the cloth remains uncertain, however.

"The main problem in identifying the the early spread of cultivated cotton is the fragile nature of the archaeological evidence", the investigators say. "Accidental preservation of charred seeds, scraps and threads provided the earliest evidence to date, and the plaster from Dhuweila is an equally fortuitous discovery".

"It would be unwise to speculate whether the fabric originated in Nubia or India: whatever the truth of the matter, the presence of cotton cloth in northern Arabia at this time is significant in terms of early international contact in the ancient world."

Source: *Journal of Archaeological Science* 21: 489–499.

University news

Liverpool
Appointments
Joan Bordas, Head of the Synchrotron Radiation Research Division at Daresbury Laboratory and visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool, to the Chair of Experimental Physics.
David Drakakis-Smith, Professor of Development Studies at the University of Keele, to be the first holder of the Chair of Economic Geography.
Christopher Jones, Professor of Social Work and Principal Lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire, to the Chair of Social Policy and Social Work.
Stephen Padgett, Jean Monnet Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government at the University of Essex, to the Chair of Politics.
Thomas Schulz, Clinical Research Scientist at the Institute of Cancer Research, to be the first holder of the Jefferiss Chair of Genito-Urinary Medicine.
Andrew Watts, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Conservative Dentistry/Adult Dental Care at Glasgow Dental Hospital and School and Honorary Consultant to Greater Glasgow Health Board, to be the first holder of the Chair of Restorative Dentistry.
David Wilkinson, Professor of Psychiatry at the London Medical College, to be the first holder of the Chair of Liaison Psychiatry.
Bath
Dr C J Budd, Reader in Numerical Analysis, School of Mathematics, University of Bristol, to be Professor of Applied Mathematics in the School of Mathematical Sciences from September 1, 1995.
Professor A J Metland, Professor in Design at Brunel University, to be Professor of Design Engineering from January 1.
Dr J M W Slack, Principal Scientist, Imperial Cancer Research Fund (Head of the Experimental Morphology Laboratory in the ICRF Developmental Biology Unit in the Department of Zoology University of Oxford), to be Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology from September 1, 1995.
Promotion:
Dr G D Holman, Reader in Biochemistry, to a Personal Chair.
Westminster
Recent research grants include:
Professor Peter Jones: £10,000 from the Automobile Association (study of M25 regular drivers); £41,000 from Department of Transport (policies in overseas cities for traffic and transport); £93,000 from Hampshire County Council (Romanse II).
Dr Stephen Winter: £385,000 from the European Commission (software engineering for parallel processing).
Professor Michael Browne: £179,590 from the Energy Technology Support Unit (transport and supply logistics of biomas fuels).
Professor John Littler and Laurent Serive-Mattei: £25,500 from the Building Research Establishment (modelling water vapour conditions in vacant dwellings).
Professor Peter Morse £14,400 from Eden Group Ltd (fax modem software).
Dr Clifford Hardcastle and Judith Allen £6,000 from UK Family Housing Association (Anglo-Polish consortium).
Dr Harriet Evans: £6,280 from Leverhulme Trust (women and sexuality in the People's Republic of China).

Birthdays today

The Emperor of Japan celebrates his 61st birthday today.

Mr Michele Alboreto, racing driver, 38; the Earl of Balfour, 69; Lord Bancroft, 72; Sir Franklin Berman, civil servant, 55; Mrs C. Bicknell, former chairman, Victoria Health Authority, 75; Sir Norman Biggs, banker, 87; Lord Blake, 78; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Carlill, 92; Mr David Davis, MP, 46; Mr Peter Davis, former co-chairman, Reed Elsevier, 53; Mr Maurice Denham, actor, 85; Sir Colin Fielding, civil servant, 68; Mr J.R.S. Guinness, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 59; Mr Yousuf Karsh, photographer, 86; Mr Graham Kelly, chief executive, Football Association, 49; Professor Peter Lachmann, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 63; Miss Belinda Lang, actress, 41; Mr Christopher Lawrence, silversmith, 58; Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Macnab, 95; Sir Roger Neville, former chief executive, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 63; Miss J.M. Quennell, former MP, 71; Mr Ashley Raeburn, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 76; Herr Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany, 76; the Rev Christopher Turner, former Headmaster, Stowe School, 65; Mr R.S. Unwin, publisher, 69; the Marquess of Winchester, 53.

Institute of Biology

The following have been elected to Fellowship and are permitted to use the designatory letters CBiol FIBiol: Dr G M Brown; Professor D A Conroy; Dr K Donaldson; Dr A B Parkes; Dr J G White.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army
Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie to be Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe in the rank of General from December 8, 1994 in succession to General Sir John Waters.
Major-General M.J.D. Walker to be Commander ACE Rapid Reaction Corps in the rank of Lieutenant-General from December 8, 1994 in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.
Brigadier K.J. Drewienkiewicz to be Engineer-in-Chief (Army) in the rank of Major-General from December 15, 1994.
Brigadier R.A. Oliver to be Deputy Chief of Staff Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces in the rank of Major-General from December 15, 1994.

Appointment

Mr Krishnan Srinivasan, currently Indian Foreign Secretary, to be a Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in succession to Sir Anthony Siaguru who will return to Papua New Guinea at the end of his five-year term in June.

CHRIS HARRIS



Blessed by the Fairy Godmother (Tracy Brown), Cinderella (Viviana Durante) and the Prince (Bruce Sansom) find true happiness at the dress rehearsal yesterday of the Royal Ballet's *Cinderella*, with music by Prokofiev and choreography by Sir Frederick Ashton. It opens today at Covent Garden

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Martin Opitz, poet, Bunzlau, Silesia, 1597; James Gibbs, architect, Aberdeen, 1682; Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor, Preston, 1732; Sir Martin Archer Shee, painter, Dublin, 1770; Jean Francois Champollion, Egyptologist, Figeac, France, 1790; Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Sharon, Vermont, 1805; Samuel Smiles, author of *Self Help*, Haddington, Lothian, 1812; Vladimir Ivanovich Nemirovich-Danchenko, theatre director, novelist and playwright, Ozurgety, Georgia, 1858; Sir Hugh Allen, musician, Reading, 1869; J. Arthur Rank, 1st Baron Rank, industrialist and film magnate, Hull, 1888.

DEATHS: Michael Drayton, poet, London, 1631; John Cotton, Puritan clergyman (the Patriarch of New England), Boston, 1652; Thomas Robert Malthus, economist, Bath, 1834; Hugh Miller, geologist, committed suicide, 1865; Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, builder of the tower bearing his name, Paris, 1923; Anthony Herman Fokker, aircraft pioneer, New York, 1939.

Joseph Hansom patented a type of cab, 1834.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.R. Beharrell and Miss M.R. Mortimer
The engagement is announced between Steven R. Beharrell and Mary R. Mortimer, of Chelsea, London.

Mr T.G. Fallowfield and Miss J.K.O. Hall
The engagement is announced between Timothy Gordon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Fallowfield, of London SW4, and Juliet Katherine Olivia, daughter of Professor and Mrs Laurie Hall, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and Vernon, BC.

Mr G.I.D. Forbes-Leith and Miss C.F. Ely
The engagement is announced between George, elder son of Sir Andrew Forbes-Leith, of Fyvie Bt, and the late Mrs Forbes-Leith, of Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, and Camilla, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Ely, of Crawley, Hampshire.

Mr P.R. Harper RN and Miss H.R.M. Field
The engagement is announced between Sub Lieutenant Philip Harper Royal Navy, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Harper, of Wokingham, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Field, of Trotton, Sussex.

Mr R.S.A.L. Maitland-Titterton and Miss S.L. Mason
The engagement is announced between Rupert Seymour Aulin Leslie, son of Colonel and Mrs David Maitland-Titterton, of Baughurst, Hampshire, and Sarah Louise, daughter of Mr Anthony and the late Mrs Susan Mason, and step-daughter of Mrs Anthony Mason of Wickham, Hampshire.

Mr X.L.A. Gunner and Miss I.T. Stevenson
The engagement is announced between Xavier, son of the Rev L.F.P. and Mrs Gunner, of The Old Rectory, Marlborough, Wiltshire and Iona, daughter of Major General and Mrs P.T. Stevenson, of Wortley, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire.

Mr M.N.J. Heseltine and Miss A.S. Greenshields
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mrs Margaret Heseltine, of Englefield Green, Surrey, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Greenshields, of Castle Douglas.

Mr T.W. Lowen, III, and Miss C.F. Barclay
The engagement is announced between Theodore, elder son of Mr and Mrs Theodore W. Lowen, of Rockville Center, New York, and Carey, daughter of Mr and Mrs George C. Barclay, of Whitstone House, Bovey Tracey, Devon.

Dr A.P.M. Moreau and Miss L. M-R. Weaver
The engagement is announced between Piers, only son of Mr David Moreau, of Fulmer, Buckinghamshire and of the late Mrs David Moreau, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Oliver Weaver, of Albury, Hertfordshire.

Dr F.C. Schreiber and Miss T.E. Higgins
The engagement is announced between Christian, eldest son of Mr Franz Schreiber and Mrs Dorit Schreiber, of Alding, Munich, and Tania, only daughter of Mr Nicholas Higgins and Mrs Esperanza Higgins, of Wimbledon.

Latest wills

Sir Harold Mario Mitchell **Acton**, of Florence, Italy, the historian and aesthete, left estate in England and Wales valued at £61,577 net.
He left a number of personal bequests, and the remainder of his estate, including his home and his paintings and objects of art known as the "Acton Collection" to New York University, to maintain as a centre of studies.

Dame Margaret **Wakehurst**, of London SW1, former President of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, and widow of the 2nd Lord Wakehurst, left estate valued at £79,064 net.

A further grant of probate in respect of Settled Land valued at £3,110,847 has been issued in the estate of Lord Robert Hugh **Tranmire**, of Upsall Castle, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, who as Robin Turton was Conservative MP for Thirsk and Malton 1929-74, a former Minister of Health, and Father of the House of Commons 1966-74, who died on Jan 17 last, aged 90, leaving unsettled estate already valued at £3,455,262, making a total of £6,566,109.

Mr Gerald Albert Theodore **Pratt**, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £249,405 net.
He left £5,000 and his small collection of medals to the Fusilier Aid Society, of RHQ, RPF, Tower of London, "in memory of my Comrades Sgt A E Cox and L Cpl C Bailey killed in action on the 17th and 14th October 1944 in Holland with the Anti-Tank Platoon of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment". £5,000 each to the National Trust, to provide a bench or benches in the garden of East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, both in memory of his late wife Irene M Pratt, and the Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, £2,000 to the Royal British Legion and £1,000 each to Manorlands Sue Ryder Home, Oxenhope, the Muscular Dystrophy Society, Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Other estates (net before tax) include:
Mr Hilton George **Blake**, of Horning, Norfolk, late company director £1,372,590
Mr Reginald Herbert **Clarke**, of Prestwich, Greater Manchester £1,384,573
Mr Maurice **Goldman**, of London NW11 ..... £2,889,938
Mr Hugo Joseph **Liebeschuetz**, of Thorpe Bay, Essex £547,351
Bridget Mary **Miller**, of Brewood, Staffordshire £1,138,851
Mr Ian Roy **Suter**, of Lewes, East Sussex £723,235
The Hon Mrs Cynthia Edith **Talbot** of Mark Beech, Kent £561,807

Church services tomorrow

Christmas Eve

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC: 4 EP; 5.30 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.30 Midnight M, Coronation Mass (Mozart). All this time (Walton).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 3.30 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.30 *Midnight Euch.*
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 Crib Service; 3 Carol Service; 5 Choral E.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 3 Children's Service; 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Euch with Hymns.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 8.45 MP; 4 Crib Service; 5.15 EP; 6 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch. Missa ad Praesipe (Malcolm). Agnus Dei & Carols.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.15 MP; 7.45 HC; 4.15 Choral E. As Joseph was awaking. Responses (Rose). Aston in F. O little town of Bethlehem (Walford Davies); 5.15 Crib Service; 11.30 Midnight Euch.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 4.15 Blessing of Crib; 5.30 E. Sumsion in G. Love came down at Christmas (Rutter). Responses (Milford); 10.45 Vigil of Music and Readings; 11.30 Midnight Euch. Stanford in C.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 12 C; 12.40 MP; 12.45 German Luteran; 3.30 Carol Service; 5 EP; 7 The Form of a Servant.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.30 HC; 9 MP; 3 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 5.15 EP.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 6.30 E. Preces (Rose). Stanford in G, O ye little flock (Amner); 7 Carol Service; 11.30 S Euch. Darke in E. The Lord Bishop.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 5.15 Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols; 11.30 S Euch. Byrd. In the bleak mid-winter (Darke). Still the night.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 4 Carol Service; 11.30 Midnight Euch. Dom Gregory (Murray). What sweeter music (Rutter). The Precentor.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 H Euch; 3.30 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols; 6 Festal E. Wood in E flat. O thou the central orb (Wood); 11.45 Euch.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 6 Carol Service; 11.30 Euch & Crib Blessing. Canon I Bennett.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 6 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.30, Silent Night. A babe is born (William Mathias), Canon I Bennett.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11.30 Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn). Gloria in excelsis (Weekles), In the bleak midwinter (Darke). Bishop of Southwark.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 3.30 Crib Blessing; 5.15 E; 11.30 Midnight Euch. Bishop of Bath & Wells.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 9.20 M; 12 Children's Crib Service; 3.30 E; 4 Service of Lessons and Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch. Stanford in C. Canon A Harvey.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 8.30, 9, 10.30, 12.30 M; 4.15 Vespers. Cardinal Magnificat octavi toni (Bevan). O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Le Verbe (Messiaen); 10 MP; 6 M with Carols; 11.15 Midnight Mass with orchestra. The Cardinal, Mass in G (Schubert) Jauchzet, frohlocket (Bach). *Carillon de Westminster (Vierne).*
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 3 Children's Service. 5.30 E & Crib Blessing. Dyson in E minor, Ding Dong merrily on high (Willcocks). Toccata (Dongen); 11.30 Midnight Euch. Break forth O beauteous heavenly light (Bach), Coronation Mass (Mozart). In dulci jubilo (Pearsall). Three Kings (Cornelius). In the bleak mid-winter (Darke). Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen).
YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 7.50 HC; 12 Crib Blessing; 3 EP; 4 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL. Clwyd: 7pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; 11.45 Choral Euch. Stanford in B flat. In the bleak midwinter (Darke), All this time (Walton).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 3.30 Children's Crib Service; 7.30 M. St Thomas' Hospital; 11.30 Midnight Choral M. Archbishop Michael.
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 5.15 Family Service. The Minister; 11.30 Watchnight Service. The Minister.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8, 12.30 HC; 8.30 M; 2.30 E; 4 Christmas Carol Service & Crib blessing; 11.30 Midnight Mass. Messe de Minuit (Charpentier). Rev C Hill.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Dundee: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Little Organ Mass (Haydn). I saw three ships (arr Lloyd). In the bleak midwinter (Darke). The Provost.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 12 HM of Midnight. Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn). Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck). O magnum mysterium (Victoria), There is no rose (Joubert), The Vicar.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 C, Rev Rico Tice.
THE ASSUMPTION, *Warwick Street, W1:* 11.30pm. Carols. Messe de minuit (Charpentier).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 11.30pm. Watch Night Service.
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 11.30 Midnight C, Rev S Donwham.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Mariazellermesse (Haydn), O regem caeli (Victoria).
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11.30 United Midnight C, St Paul's Cathedral.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11.30 Candlelight C.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 7 Carols; 11 Choral HC, Rev R Englund.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 11.45pm Midnight Euch, Prebendary M Shrewsbury.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11.30pm Midnight Mass (Candlelit), Coronation Mass with Carols (Mozart), Canon J Oates.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11.30 Choral Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart). In the bleak midwinter (Darke). Rev B McAvoy.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11.30 Candlelight Service.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11.30pm SM with Carols. Missa brevis (Kodaly). Verbum caro factum est (Hassler), Dieu parmi nous (La Nativite du Seigneur)
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 11.30 Midnight Mass S Euch, Organ Set Mass (Mozart). Rev B Wilson.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 4 Crib Service; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck). Rev D Watson.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 11.30 Midnight Mass. Mozart Coronation Mass. Rev T Devonshire Jones.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11.45 Midnight Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Schutz). Rev P Chester.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 6.30 Carol Service; 11.30 Midnight Mass.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington, W8: 3 Crib Service; 11.30 Midnight Mass.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 12 Midnight HM (with carols from 11.30). Coronation Mass in C (Mozart), Fr B Scott.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 6, Family Carols.
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Resonet in laudibus (Handl), The Rector.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 5 Blessing of Crib; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Spanzenmesse (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), Rev N Dawson.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Mariazeller Mass (Haydn), For unto us a Child is born (Handel), Vom Himmel hoch (Edmundson).
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 11.30pm HC. Canon J Murphy.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 11 Nativity Midnight Mass.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Coronation Mass (Mozart). God is with us (Taverner). Carols.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11.15pm Carols; 11.30 Midnight HC. Mass (Schubert in G), Rev K Joyce.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.15 Carols; 11.30 Midnight HC. Mass (Schubert in G, Rev K Joyce.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

What love means is to live according to the commands of God. This is the command that was given to you from the beginning, to be your rule of life.
2 John : 6 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALBRACHT – On December 13th 1994, at The Portland Hospital, to Concepta (née Flynn) and Thomas, a beautiful daughter, Holly Marie.

BARHAM – On December 20th 1994, to Clare (née *Turnbull*) and Edward, a son, George Wilfrid, a brother for Emily.

BARING – On 19th December 1994, to Lucy and Zam, a daughter.

FITCH – To Jayne and Barnaby (Boo) on December 22nd, a darling daughter, Lily, a sister for Sam and Eleanor.

HUTTON – On 22nd December, in Angoulême, to Véronique and Mark, a daughter, Julia Marie.

LIDDELL – On December 16th, to Bill and Sharron (née Singer) a beautiful son, Alex Martin.

MCMURTRIE – On December 22nd 1994, to Virginia (née Jagger) and Simon, a beautiful daughter, Anna Charlotte.

OGILVY – On December 16th, in Edinburgh, to Julia and James, a beautiful daughter, Flora Alexandra.

DEATHS

ADAIR – On 20th December 1994, Colonel Paul Robin Adair, L.V.O. late Coldstream Guards, beloved husband of Joy and very much loved father and grandfather. Funeral service at 11.am on Friday 23rd December at Llanelli Church, Gilwern, Gwent, following private cremation. A service of Thanksgiving will be held in London at a later date.

BUXTON – Mary, on 20th December 1994, peacefully, at the Lyndon Hill Clinic. Loving aunt, godmother and friend. Funeral service to be held at Putney Vale Crematorium at 11.00 am, on 3rd January 1996. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Royal Marsden N.H.S. Trust-League of Friends' may be sent to: A.B. Walker & Son Ltd., 36 Eldon Road, Reading.

CRAIG – James Derek Graham, suddenly on December 19th at home. Much loved husband of Elizabeth, father of Janet and Margie and grandfather of Emma & Robert. Service on Friday December 30th at 2.30 pm, Little Gaddesden Parish Church. No flowers please.

FAURCE – On 21st December, peacefully in Wingham, Cmdr. Bonham De Lauze, R.N.(ret.), much loved father and grandfather. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Wingham, nr Canterbury at 12 noon on 3rd January followed by cremation. Flowers and enquiries to C W Lyons and Son. Tel: 0227 463608.

GIBBS – Jane, died peacefully December 22nd, sister of Mary, Peter, Susan, William. Service Wednesday 28th, 12 noon, St. Johns, Batheaston, Avon. No flowers.

GREENHALGH – peacefully at home on the 20th December, Neil Craig Mayor aged 82 years, beloved father of David, Charles, Vivian and Sandra and much loved grandfather of Simon, Robin, Zoe and Michelle. Funeral service will be held at St. Saviour's Church, Dry Hill Park Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent on Wednesday 4th January 1995 at 12.30 pm, followed by burial at Tonbridge Cemetery. Floral tributes to Ord-Hume Funeral Services, 53a Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 2RS Tel: 0732 365746.

HARE – John Gerard of Princes Risborough, suddenly on December 20th 1994 aged 66 years. Funeral service 12 noon Thursday December 29th at St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Princes Risborough followed by interment in St Mary's Church yard. Flowers or donations if preferred to The British Heart Foundation, c/o Surman & Horwood Funeral Service, 25 High Street, Princes Risborough HP27 0AE.

HALL – On December 21st 1994, at The Pilgrims' Hospice Canterbury, Derek Wilson MB, B Chir, MRCGP, aged 73. Died peacefully after a long illness borne with infinite patience. For 49 years, dearly loved husband of Mardi; devoted father of Robin, Jenny and Teresa; and loving grandpa of Rachel, Oliver, Andrew, Janet, Sarah and Joanna. Dear brother of Phyllis, Ruth and the late Pamela (all formerly of The White House, Eastbourne), brother-in-law, father-in-law, uncle and godfather. Formerly GP in Dover. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Eltham at 2.30 pm on Thursday 29th December, followed by private cremation. No mourning. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory may be sent to L'Arche Kent c/o W.J. Farrier & son, 161 London Road, Dover CT17 0TG.

HOBHOUSE – Richard Henry on December 21st, peacefully at home, surrounded by his family after a brave fight against Motor Neuron Disease. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Family funeral St Mary's Nurseys. Memorial Service to be held in Liverpool in the New Year.

HOLT-MILLER – On 22nd December, in Hospital in Redhill, Oiwen, dearly loved wife of Tom, and mother of Bruce, Christopher, Susan, Richard, Robin and grandmother of four. Funeral on Friday 30th.

JOHNS – Marion Helen 'Molly' (née Chatwin) of Thurlaston, Rugby. Widow of John and mother of Patty and Eileen, died 21st December 1994. No flowers but donations if wished to Alzheimer's Disease Society, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

KEMBLE – On 16th December, at St Margarets Somerset Hospice, Mary Grace, after a long illness. Most sadly missed by all.

KYDD – Ruth, passed away peacefully in Wye, Kent, on 21st December 1994. Cremation at Charing, Kent on Wednesday 28th December at 12 noon. A Memorial Service will be held in January in Weston by Welland.

NOTT – On 19th December 1994, at The Mayday Hospital, Croydon, Major Harry John Lincoln Nott, of St Augustines Court, South Croydon. Major Nott who was 80 years of age, was seriously ill for the past three months. Military service began 29/12/33 with the Grenadier Guards (Regular Army) through World War II till the 24/7/42 when transferred during action to serve with the Reconnaissance Corps of The Royal Armoured Corps, to the 20/11/48 then relinquished his commission 31/1/59. Major Nott leaves a son Roger, daughter Angela and an elder sister Dorothy, now living in the U.S.A. "A fighter to the end".

MARCH – On 17th December 1994, Basil George Steeden, a brother of The London Charterhouse. Service and cremation at Golders Green Crematorium on 9th January 1995 at 3.00 pm. Flowers and enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8. Tel: 071 937 0757.

PAKENHAM-WALSH – On December 6th, at Springhill Wood Road, Hindhead, Marion (May) aged 100 years. Darling mother of Barbara Nicholson and Patricia (Penny) Hazzard.

RASK – Albert James Osmond, peacefully at Oketon Nursing Home Teddington, on 20th December aged 91. Cherished father of Jennifer, Frances and Hilma. Dearly loved grandpa and brother. Cremation service on 6th January 1995 at 11.30am at South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth.

REID – On December 19th, peacefully at Dene Place, Ripley, Surrey, Niel, dearly loved husband of Gwen, father of Jo, Sally, John & Annabel, grandfather of 11 & great-grandad of 4%. Family funeral December 29th. Memorial service noon February 12th, Christchurch, Reading. No flowers please. Enquiries (0734) 872197.

SELKIRK – On December 21st, peacefully at home, Audrey Durell Douglas-Hamilton, the Rt.Hon. Countess of Selkirk, widow of the 10th Earl of Selkirk. Funeral service (family & friends welcome) at St John The Baptist Church, Berwick St John, Wilts on Thursday December 29th at 12 noon. Memorial service in London to be announced later.

VERNON-JONES – On December 16th, in London, Mary Elisabeth, beloved daughter of Elisabeth (V.J) and much loved sister of Priscilla and David. Funeral close family only, has taken place.

VERULAM – Marjorie Ray Dowager, Countess of Verulam, peacefully at home on 21st December 1994. Cremation Private. Service at St. Michaels, St Albans, Herts 12.15 pm on Sunday 29th January 1995. No mourning or flowers, but contributions to The Collector of The Forrester Fund of St. Michaels Church, St Albans, Herts.

WADE – Richard Broderick, passed away peacefully on 20th December 1994. Dearly loved father of Sallie and Penny. Funeral Service at St. Peter's Church, Titchfield, on Friday December 30th, at 11.am. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research may be sent c/o A.H. Freemantle, 46 South Street, Titchfield, Hants.

WAY – Stephen Philip Berkeley M.D., M.R.C.P., aged 70, after a brief illness. Husband of Jean, father of Simon and Charlotte, grandfather of Tracy and Jonathan, and Benjamin, Alexander and Nicholas Costley-White. Much loved by his family and friends. Private interment at St. Peter's, Broome, followed by service of Thanksgiving at Edgbaston Old Church, on Thursday, 29th December 1994 at 12 midday. Family flowers only or donations to The British Heart Foundation. Enquiries to Amber Funeral Home 021 449 6666.

WOODHEAD – On Tuesday, 20th December 1994, peacefully, Irene Woodhead aged 79, widow of Norman Cowan. Much loved Mother of Marcia, Jeremy and Alison, grandmother and great-grandmother. All enquiries to J. Kemsster and Sons, Tonbridge Wells, Tel 0892 525131.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

PALMER – In memory of my brother Son Ldr Bob Palmer VC, DFC, AE, RAFVR and those who died with him on operations over Cologne 23rd December 1944. Remembering also, all members of Nos 109 and 582 Squadrons who gave their lives during World War II.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

REEVE – Remembering Verity on this our Golden Wedding Anniversary, 28rd December 1944 at Milestone 35 on The Manipur-Kohima road. Peter.

MARRIAGES

LYNE-BANFIELD – On 19th December, the marriage took place at Croydon Register Office, Surrey between Michael Peter Lyne and Lisa Jane Banfield.

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Monday 26th December: THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
Tuesday 27th December: 9.30am - 2.00pm.
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where our staff will be available to take your call.

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

ANGUS MACINTYRE

Angus Macintyre, Senior Fellow and Tutor in Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford, died on December 21 aged 59. he was born on May 4, 1935.



THE untimely death of Angus Macintyre in a road accident came as he was preparing to move from Magdalen College, Oxford, where he had been Fellow and Tutor in Modern History for almost thirty years, to become Principal of Hertford, his undergraduate college. Macintyre embodied all that was best in Magdalen: he combined the penetrating mind of a fine historian, dedication to his pupils, diplomatic finesse in dealing with the outside world and an infectious sense of fun which endeared him to everyone who knew him.

His contribution was essentially as a teacher and administrator, like many of the best Oxford dons of earlier times. His handsome face — somewhat resembling Rex Harrison's — and his familiar wide-brimmed hat made him instantly recognisable. He had an easy and buoyant manner, full of humour and often rising to exhilaration, but which belied a temperament that was occasionally prone to introspection.

Devotion to the public good characterised his service to Magdalen College and the university. As Senior Tutor, Vice President, acting President in 1987, and Senior Fellow for the last five years, he became an authoritative voice on the history and fabric of the college, and the keeper of its conscience. His was the first name to be proposed for any committee of importance, his service being gladly and conscientiously given, and his advice commanded assent for its good sense and fair-mindedness.

No one in his generation contributed so much, or so consistently, to the government of the college. Many Fellows were disappointed that he never became President — though colleges tend nowadays to set much store by criteria such as the need to alternate scientists and humanists and, above all, the demands of fundraising. But Macintyre's election as Principal of Hertford was his reward for many years of arduous administration.

Angus Donald Macintyre was the eldest son of Major Francis Peter Macintyre. He was educated at Wellington. He found his National Service in the Coldstream Guards, in which he held a commission, particularly congenial and he retained in his bearing and character the imprint of the military tradition in which he was reared.

At Hertford College he read Modern History but failed to get the first that was expected of him. Nevertheless the academic life called him, and he was undeterred by the setback. At St Antony's he worked for a doctorate, which he achieved with a thesis on Daniel O'Connell and the Irish parliamentary party. This was published in 1965 under the title *The Liberator*. A minor classic, it has remained the standard work on O'Connell for 30 years.

Although he retained an interest in Irish history, his teaching carried him into the broad stream of 19th-century British history; his encyclopaedic knowledge of the politics and culture of the period brought numerous research students to work under his supervision. His other major publication, *The Diary of Joseph Farington (1793-1821)*, was edited jointly with Kenneth Garlick in six volumes and published in 1978-79.

His main contribution to historical scholarship was his editorship of the *English Historical Review* from 1978 to 1986, during which time he marked the centenary volume by compiling a general index for the years 1956-85, a task he accomplished virtually single-handed. Indeed, he derived pleasure from such work: in his typically generous review of the last volumes of *The Gladstone Diaries* which appeared in *The Times* last month, he wrote: "A life of Gladstone could be written from the Index."

With all his numerous commitments to the college, teaching was his priority. In 1965 he succeeded A. J. P. Taylor as one of a team of four tutors under K. B. McFarlane. Though the junior by 15 years, Macintyre quickly established himself as a valued colleague who made a distinctive contribution to the high reputation of the Magdalen history school. He was also the most loyal of friends: when another Magdalen history tutor, Karl Leyser, was badly injured in a road accident, Macintyre insisted on lending his car to Leyser's family throughout his four months' convalescence.

Over the next three decades Macintyre shouldered a heavy burden and took few respites but, however numerous his pupils, his attention to their individual needs was never stinted. He combined paternalism with a hint of military discipline; freshmen were rather like officer cadets, destined to emerge three years later as scholars and gentlemen. A great gentleman himself, he was adept at putting undergraduates of all backgrounds at their ease.

The disciplines of punctual delivery of work and attendance at tutorials were integral to the discipline of thought and scholarship. Macintyre was a natural didact, provoking his pupils to advance and defend their own arguments, directing the discussion in seminars, invoking pride in their own intellectual development. Most found themselves transformed beyond their expectations after three years under his care. In 1977 and 1993 Macintyre and his fellow tutors achieved record numbers of history firsts. He was always the first to congratulate the successful or to commiserate with the less fortunate.

Few tutors were so widely known outside the range of their own pupils. He habitually attended social functions within the college and entertained at his house in Linton Road with his wife Joanna.

Each vacation they retired to their house, Achaglachgach, in Scotland for recreation, reading and reeling, sometimes with parties of undergraduates. Indeed, though his background was prevalently Celtic and in the early part of his life Macintyre seemed to emphasise the Irish element in his ancestry, the Scottish side became more strongly marked in later life. He was the leader of a Scottish Highland sept, and Hogmanay *chez* Macintyre was an unforgettable experience.

Macintyre was an enthusiastic cricketer and at the end of each summer term led out a Dons' XI in matches with undergaduates and graduates. P. G. Wodehouse was a passion throughout his life, and he contributed to a collection of tributes in 1981: *Thank You Wodehouse*.

Over the last decade he was increasingly drawn into the affairs of the History faculty and the university. As chairman of the faculty board it fell to him to organise an "audit of quality assurance" in February last year followed by a "quality of teaching assessment" in November, as required by the Higher Education Funding Council.

Both were new and intrusive scrutinies, comparable to medieval episcopal visitations, and liable to arouse the maximum distrust and resentment among autonomous college tutors. It was a tribute not only to Macintyre's organisational abilities but even more to his patience, contagious goodwill, and commonsense that they were accomplished smoothly and efficiently.

Concurrently Macintyre was serving on the general board of the university, and had been closely involved in the founding of the Carroll Chair of Irish History.

The impress of his achievements in these positions recommended him for his pre-election as Principal of Hertford earlier this year. He had ambitious plans for Hertford, and was looking forward to the job, which would have enabled him to entertain on a munificent scale as well as to raise the horizons of the college.

So central and long-standing a figure in the life of the college could not fail to become a focus for the loyalty of its old members, among whom he was not merely remembered but revered. He used his influence to rally support for appeals for the restoration of the fabric — notably the great tower — in the 1970s and more recently for the new quadrangle currently under construction, to both of which he was, as a founder member of the college development trust, a notable benefactor.

Macintyre's concern for secondary education was marked by his appointment as governor of schools at Wolverhampton and Brackley and at Magdalen College School, Oxford, where his steady guidance as chairman in the initial stages of its independence from the college is remembered with deep gratitude. More recently he gave much time to educational initiatives in the teaching of Irish history at both secondary and higher levels.

In 1958 he married Joanna Harvey, who survives him together with two sons and a daughter.

SAMUEL LIPMAN

Samuel Lipman, music critic and publicist, died in New York on December 16 aged 60. He was born in San Jose, California, on June 7, 1934.



SAMUEL LIPMAN had three interlocking careers. He was a classical concert pianist and married a classical concert pianist. He was a respected music critic whose books, *Music After Modernism* (1979), *The House of Music* (1984), *Arguing for Music, Arguing for Culture* (1990) and *Music and More* (1991), were only a selection from a larger body of occasional writing which included an introduction to the Yale edition of Matthew Arnold's *Culture and Anarchy* (1994). And he was a well-known conservative publicist who made a relentless pursuit first of Marxism, then of political and social correctness. His major achievement was the foundation with Hilton Kramer of the magazine *The New Criterion*, for which he was both music critic and fund-raiser during the 12 years it has been in existence.

Lipman's parents were Russian émigrés who had settled in San Francisco. Lipman was educated at San Francisco's State College and the University of Berkeley where he took an MA in politics and was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. He then moved to New York in order to study the piano under Rosina Lhevinne and for many years thereafter made the concert hall his central interest. From 1985 to 1993 he was director of the Waterloo Festival and did much to encourage an interest in neglected American composers such as Howard Hanson and Walter Piston.

Lipman's politics were New York politics; they were part of the Cold War conservatism which many American ex-Marxists embraced between the 1950s and the 1980s. Lipman was not an ex-Marxist and his conservatism survived the Cold War. But he did not expect American intellectual conservatism in general to survive it, and he saw signs long before he died that the collapse of the Soviet empire had removed the discipline of fear from the empty liberalism of the American mind.

Lipman was a pessimist who looked closely at American culture, and very much disliked what he saw. His campaign against the exhibition of the homo-erotic Mapplethorpe photographs, in part funded by taxpayers money, was only the best-known of his condemnations of what he thought a corrupt artistic establishment.

During both Reagan administrations Lipman was involved in arts and education policy through his membership of the National Council of the Arts. But both about the arts and about education he felt that he was on the losing side.

Lipman also believed that American universities had capitulated to the student revolution of the 1960s and the gay, lesbian and Green syllabuses which had followed. Though he did not take the lead himself against this, he gave energetic encouragement to others who did, especially to Roger Kimball whose *Tenured Radicals* represented a very great deal of his own point of view.

Lipman was a very conservative Republican who doubted the conservative resolve of most Republican politicians — even, probably, after the most recent restoration of Republication fortunes. While he shared the moral preferences of the Christian Right he mistrusted its anti-Semitism.

Lipman's favourite composers were Bach and Wagner. He was cultivated and widely read and was concerned about the quality of prose and the integrity of argument. He did not believe that either was improving in the United States.

Lipman's critics claimed that he exaggerated the extent of American cultural dilapidation and was too little in touch with provincial America to understand what was going on. But there can be little doubt that what he disliked existed and needed the sort of attention that he gave it.

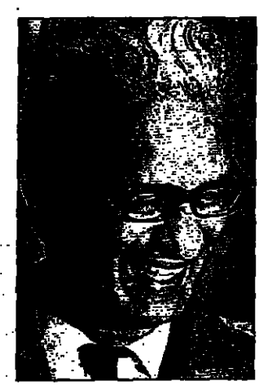
Lipman was a believing Jew who, with his wife, was active in the affairs of his congregation. He was also a devoted father who sent his son to Columbia University because it was on the doorstep, and then to Peterhouse, Cambridge, because he believed that English university education had not yet been destroyed.

The last five years of Lipman's life were overshadowed by leukaemia against which he fought an extraordinarily determined battle with courage and without complaint.

He is survived by his wife and his son.

MALCOLM ADISESHIAH

Malcolm Adiseshiah, Indian economist and Deputy Director of Unesco, 1963-70, died in Madras on November 21 aged 84. He was born on April 18, 1910.



DOGGED as it is by numerous social and economic ills, India owes its continuing existence as a democratic state in no small part to a few sane voices. Prominent among these was the economist and educationist Malcolm Adiseshiah who devoted his life to such causes as the alleviation of poverty and illiteracy, influenced by the humanitarianism of Mahatma Gandhi and the democratic socialism of Jawaharlal Nehru.

As one of the pioneers of Unesco, the educational, scientific and cultural agency of the UN, he made a concerted effort to turn his dreams into reality. The poor must be provided with new skills, economic forces must be directed for maximum social good and science must be used to solve the problems of under-development.

Born in the southern Indian city of Madras, Malcolm Adiseshiah was one of those fortunate Indians who could afford the best of the educational opportunities available to Indians in the beginning of this century. After early education in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, he went to Loyola College, Madras, and King's College, Cambridge. He took a PhD in economics from the London School of Economics. In 1931 he returned to India to take up a teaching assignment at St Paul's College, Calcutta, and five years later he moved to his home town, Madras, to become professor of economics at the university there.

In 1946 Adiseshiah joined the World University Service in Geneva and two years later, at the invitation of Julian Huxley, he joined Unesco. As one of the founding fathers of the agency he constantly pressed the point that education and literacy was an essential pre-condition of the development of third world.

He launched more than a hundred projects aimed at enhancing literacy and economic development in the developing countries. He retired as Deputy Director General of Unesco in 1970 and returned to Madras to focus more closely on the problems his own country was then facing; this led to the foundation of the Madras Institute for Development Studies.

In Madras he produced some scholarly treatises on India's then stagnant economy. *Let My Country Awake* (1970) was a forceful reminder of India's inherent economic potential and *It is Time to Begin* (1972) was a call for reform in the State-controlled economy.

He was ahead of his time. For twenty years Indian policymakers refused to listen to him. Had they followed his ideas in the early 1970s India would not have fallen so far behind the Pacific Rim countries. He continued to send timely reminders to the Indian policymakers. Immediately after Rajiv Gandhi came to power in 1984 Adiseshiah attracted his attention with another major work *The Why, What and Wither of the Public Sector*. Adiseshiah believed that the wasteful and inefficient public industries, treated as sacred cows, had been a major drain on India's scarce resources and he argued in 1985 that the time for change had arrived.

He had also served as Vice-Chancellor of Madras University and in 1978 he was nominated to the Upper House of the Indian Parliament in recognition of his distinguished services. He was a liberal humanist who constantly explored new ideas for the betterment of the under-privileged.

Malcolm Adiseshiah was married with two children.

JEREMY PARSONS

Jeremy Parsons, patron of Finnish arts, died in London from an Aids-related illness on December 2 aged 43. He was born in Exeter on February 28, 1951.



AS A publisher, agent and commissioner of new works, Jeremy Parsons loomed large on the small, somewhat neglected, stage of Finnish arts. For most of his life he lived in Britain where he worked in opera, ballet and concert management, but where his enthusiastic promotion of many worthy Finnish artists helped to bring them to the attention of an international audience.

The son of an army officer, Jeremy Farley Parsons was educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he read English. He first visited Finland in 1969 and was so intrigued by the experience that he returned, after graduating, in 1972. For the next four years he worked as a teacher, translator and critic, establishing contacts with Finnish composers and performers. He set up a new music publishing house, Edition Pan, and in 1975 presented a series of concerts of Finnish chamber music as part of that year's Helsinki Festival.

Returning to London he set about educating the English on Finnish music in a practical way. In the late 1970s he promoted 11 concerts at the Wigmore Hall and St John's, Smith Square, featuring Finnish music and musicians. In 1987 he co-ordinated the Spotlight on Finland festival in London, celebrating the 70th anniversary of Finland's independence. The same year he advised Radio 3 on its nine-programme series *Sounds of Finland*, and in 1988 was consultant for BBC2's programme on Finnish music.

As a result of all this activity, three British groups — the Cambridge University Chamber Choir, the Medici String Quartet and the Endymion Ensemble — took Finnish works into their repertoire as well as visiting Finland and recording Finnish music.

Parsons first began acting as manager to Erik Bergman — often described as Finland's most important modernist composer — in 1975, and commissioned *Silence and Eruptions* from him in 1979. Parsons also commissioned the talented and, at that time, undervalued Paavo Heininen (*Reality*, 1978); Kaija Saariaho (*Adjö*, 1982); and Jouni Kaipainen, perhaps the most gifted of the younger Finns, and a pupil of Heininen (*Requiem*, this year).

Parson's interests were not confined to music. He translated Finnish and Swedish works, published the poems of Solveig von Schoultz (1984), the complete songs of Jean Sibelius (for Decca in 1984) and Lasse Lehtinen's novel *Blood, Sweat and Bears* (1988). At the time of his death he was co-editing a volume of analytical essays on the music of Usko Merilainen.

For the last four years, he acted as promotions manager for Fazer Music, the Scandinavian music publishers. He was made a knight (first-class) of the order of the Lion of Finland in 1992.

Parsons was a quiet, retiring man who had the reputation of disappearing during his own parties, but who was able to achieve much through his dogged behind-the-scenes advocacy of Finnish arts. Since 1978 his companion had been the designer and impresario Alan Sievewright.

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ON THIS DAY

December 23 1854

With Sebastopol still in enemy hands, British supply ships destroyed in a storm, and terrible losses in the battle of Inkerman, news from the Crimea was dire. Even in the season of good will The Times *continued its attack on the government.*

To-day all the world goes down to the country. Everybody has either a country house, or, what is far better, a friend who has a country house. Everything is arranged for the provincial campaign: the guests are invited; the horses, dogs, keepers, birds, hares, and foxes are all at their posts; the juvenile parties and theatricals are in forward preparation; everybody of the least importance is three weeks deep in engagements.

Meanwhile the inclement weather we have had lately has just given way to a fine westerly wind, which softens the air overhead while it dries the ground under foot. Christmas has come to the young and light-hearted as it has come a thousand times before, that being somewhere about the proportion of green Christmases out of the 1,854. Now is England itself again. Even in those many hundred households, recently darkened by the news of some young and gallant relative slain or pest-stricken on a far distant shore, the first grief has passed away, and the glory remains. England will have her holydays, and seems to think that if not nature, at least the world, will stand still, while she forgets awhile her dreams of power, her dominion of the sea, and her high calling of universal arbitration. Yet, if we are to believe the omen of countless incidents in all histories, it has ever been at such times that the doom of nations and of men has been sounded, and careless generations have been surprised by those disasters that are only just short of the final catastrophe. And who will say that such a disaster may not be impending—may not have actually happened as we write . . . It is a national folly, and never was it so strongly, so fearfully exhibited, as at this moment. What remains of more than 50,000 men, the best blood of this country, which now represents, 3,000 miles from home, the glory, the influence, the courage, and the ability of our race? There is no use disguising the matter. We are not saying what we think alone. We say, on the evidence of every letter that has been received in this country, and we echo the opinion of almost every experienced soldier or well-informed gentleman, when we say that the noblest army England ever sent from these shores has been sacrificed to the grossest mismanagement. Incompetency, lethargy, aristocratic hauteur, official indifference, favour, routine, perverseness, and stupidity reign, revel, and riot in the camp before Sebastopol, in the harbour of Balaklava, in the hospitals of Scutari, and how much nearer home we do not venture to say.

THE TIMES TODAY FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 1994

NEWS

Guinness case sent to appeal court

■ The cases of the four original Guinness trial defendants are to be referred back to the Court of Appeal because evidence that the men say is crucial was withheld from their trial.

David Maclean, Home Office minister, has agreed to refer the convictions of — Ernest Saunders, 58, the former Guinness chief executive; entrepreneur Gerald Ronson, 55; stockbroker Anthony Parnes, 48; and financier Jack Lyons, 78 — to the court that could quash their convictions ..... Pages 1, 2

Britain gives way on Spanish trawlers

■ Britain was forced to accept that Spanish trawlers will be allowed into some of its richest coastal fishing grounds from 1996. The struggle of William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, to keep the Spanish at bay ended when the matter was put to a vote in Brussels ..... Page 1

Grozny under fire

At least 27 people, including a young American photographer, died as the Russian air force took the Chechen war to the civilians of Grozny with several bombing raids ..... Pages 1, 8

Trade surplus

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, hailed Britain's first trade surplus for more than seven years as crowning an excellent year for the economy. But his poll rating is the worst for 20 years ..... Pages 1, 2

IRA parole

In an important concession to the IRA, the Irish Government granted Christmas parole to nearly half of the country's republican prisoners ..... Page 1

Gas blast escape

A couple and their son survived an explosion which reduced their 17th century cottage at Keynsham, Avon, to rubble and turned the road outside into an inferno ..... Page 3

Passengers rebel

The chairman of Cunard boarded the *QE2* to face hundreds of angry passengers in a personal effort to restore the company's tattered public image and avert a threatened sit-in ..... Page 3

Contract killer jailed

A young Maori woman who shot dead a London businessman in a hospital corridor for a fee of £7,000 was jailed for life .. Page 5

Christmas bill

The cost of the average family's Christmas has exceeded £200 for the first time ..... Page 6

Berlusconi goes

Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister, resigned at last after his former allies in the Northern League deserted his seven-month-old hard right coalition ..... Page 7

Marriage ban list

Israeli civil rights activists accused the Religious Affairs Ministry of keeping a secret computerised blacklist of 10,000 citizens who are prohibited from marrying other Jews ..... Page 7

Frontline police

Five British police officers will spend Christmas trying to bring peace and goodwill to one of the most war-stricken places on earth, Mostar, Bosnia — without a weapon between them ... Page 8

Clinton man accused

Another senior member of the Clinton Administration is facing a criminal investigation over charges that he may have lied to a federal judge ..... Page 9

Gingrich books row

Newt Gingrich, the incoming Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, was accused of cashing in on his position when it was revealed he had accepted a $4 million (£2.55 million) contract for two books ..... Page 9

Why did the cracker cross the ocean?

■ Britain is celebrating a new export triumph — the sale of exceedingly bad jokes (sample: What do you call a sheep with a ribbon tied round it? Rambo) to China. The Chinese, who are traditionally credited with inventing everything that goes bang, have taken to the traditional English cracker. As have the Hungarians, the French and the Americans ..... Page 3



Guy Delarge, the Frenchman who is attempting to swim the Atlantic from Cape Verde to Martinique, rests on his accompanying raft

BUSINESS

Trade surplus: Britain's trade account was in the black for the first time in more than seven years in the third quarter, with the value of exports outstripping imports by £846 million ..... Page 17

On the brink: Hopes for the survival of Stanhope Properties, half owner of the Broadgate and Ludgate developments, suffered a blow when trading in the company's shares was suspended ..... Page 17

Car deal: Rover Group is to advise the Indonesian government on the construction of a new plant in Java capable of producing 100,000 cars a year ..... Page 17

Markets: Shares rose 21.3 points to 3,019.7. The pound fell 1.42 cents to $1.5455 and .81 pfennigs to DM2.4411 ..... Page 20

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton, the captain, is confident that England can win the second Test in Melbourne. The team's fortunes have improved in the past week and the pitch may be less suitable for Shane Warne ..... Page 32

Football: Brazil and Yugoslavia, possessors of the richest seams of talent in football for the past half-century, meet in Porto Alegre today ..... Page 30

Rugby union: Wales confirmed their bid to host the 1999 World Cup with the final at an enlarged Cardiff Arms Park ..... Page 29

Skiing: Alberto Tomba won a World Cup giant slalom in Alta Badia. It was his third victory in three days, a feat never achieved before ..... Page 30

ARTS

Not mad at all: A film version of Alan Bennett's National Theatre play, *The Madness of George III* — retaining the original British director and star — seemed an unlikely prospect for Hollywood. But it has been critically acclaimed ... Page 25

Right-on Charleys: A new production of the classic Victorian farce, *Charley's Aunt*, takes the action into the realms of mime and performance art ..... Page 25

Annus mirabilis: For Caitlin Moran, 1994 was "a synthesis of laid-back LA G-funk; brattish Brit-pop; melancholy ghost-town trip-hop; and scouring, all-devouring demons let loose on vinyl" .... Page 26

Pop on Friday: Reviews of Michael Ball and The Cult in concert; and ZZ Top on disc ..... Page 27

FEATURES

Come all ye faithful: Dressed in Victorian garb with lantern in hand, Giles Coren shows that talk of carol singing being a dying art is humbug ..... Page 11

Bleak midwinter: The Rev Kenneth Leach, founder of Centrepoint, tells Valerie Grove of his attempts to make sense of the anger and pain of inner city work ..... Page 10

A god remembered: Eleanor Berry talks to Julia Llewellyn Smith about Robert Maxwell ..... Page 10

INTERIOR

It's a steal: Mobile phones are the most fashionable gifts this year and likely to be stolen ..... Page 24

Selling religion: A prank claiming that Microsoft is buying the Roman Catholic Church has been taken seriously ..... Page 24

THE ARTS

Preview: One of the more improbable boxing matches, Ali versus Foreman, is recalled in *Rumble in the Jungle* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Lynne Truss is gripped by a BBC2 documentary about the South American condor ..... Page 31

OPINION

Golden English

Every native speaker of English has an exploitable asset. But remember, foreigners are mastering it fast ..... Page 13

Ulster's expectations

The greatest gift the people of Northern Ireland could be given in the next yrear is to become master's of their own destiny ..... Page 13

A sporting reshuffle

In our demotic age, no activity has produced a greater abundance of popular icons than sport ... Page 13

BERNARD LEVIN

Don't laugh — someone might take it into his (or her) head to complain to the appropriate authority in East Sussex that the noise Glyndebourne makes keeps his pet rabbit awake ..... Page 12

RICHARD BEESTON

Readers of the Russian papers are being treated to a steady diet of anti-war articles which makes the Vietnam War look like a PR coup for the Pentagon by comparison ..... Page 12

PHILLIP HOWARD

Each year Ebenezer Scrooge waves his arms to shoo away the ghosts of bad language and resolves to live upon the Total Abstinence Principle with solecisms, and to keep to the Queen's English. And though he is bound to fail, as all mortals are, we wish him better luck next year ..... Page 12

OBITUARIES

Angus Macintyre, Senior Fellow and Tutor in Modern History at Magdalen College, Oxford; **Samuel Lipman**, American music critic and publicist; **Malcolm Adiseshiah**, Indian economist and Deputy Director of Unesco, 1963-70; **Jeremy Parsons**, patron of Finnish arts ..... Page 15

LETTERS

Myra Hindley's life sentence; fears of further Rwanda genocide; Mohamed Al Fayed wants an apology from Major ..... Page 13



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ QUIZ FIZZ
Pit your wits and win jeroboams of champagne. Two jumbo prize crosswords

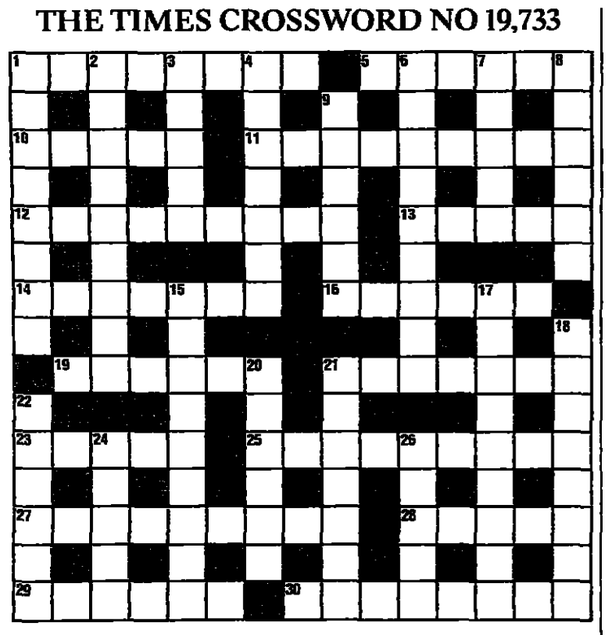
■ FOWL FOOD
Frances Bissell cooks better birds; Jonathan Meades becomes an unHappy Eater

THE PAPERS

A navigational error by a US army army helicopter crew and an overreaction by North Korean defenders have threatened to undo months of arduous negotiations to defuse tensions on the Korean peninsular — *Wall street Journal*

The speed with which Mexico's troubles got transmitted into the markets of Brazil and Argentina suggests just how tight the links are becoming in a post-Nafta world. US officials are going to be required to demonstrate leadership on the hemisphere's economy — *USA Today*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,733



ACROSS

1 It's a small world, as the ship's surgeon discovered (8)
5 Player in the wind finds it a bit too boisterous (6)
10 The historian has lost us, it goes without saying (5)
11 As the correct procedure, start off the evening with a dance (9)
12 The study of friction — a cause of distress to boy and girl (9)
13 Point to a speck of dust and make a scene (5)
14 Fall upon pass to a substitute (7)
16 Quiet time on the Weald (6)
19 Indian comprehending most of old language (6)
21 Love in Proust novel destroys (7)
23 Relax the terms of reference (5)
25 "Princess caught by lion", by Irish artist (9)
27 One of the six-footers Longfellow's Evangeline favoured (9)
28 Alexander's mistress was Siamese (5)
29 Note the wine account (6)
30 President who had to keep his end up (8)

DOWN

1 Liberality of interpretation in play (8)
2 Young bride-snatcher takes the waters in a French department (9)
3 Anthem not exactly what's wanted as a formal presentation (5)
4 End of citation (7)
6 Publican showing cunning in a drinking spree (9)
7 Northern blockhouse (5)
8 He sets difficult subjects for doctorates (6)
9 Woodland deities brooded over the years (6)
15 Nothing terminal resulting from his job? (4-5)
17 Where the inmates are not tickled to death? (5-4)
18 Jenny twice elected — bravo! (8)
20 Go round the Cape — start of exceptional thrill (6)
21 Dig out her aunt's letters (7)
22 One who has a bow for the coquettish queen (6)
24 Confused position of Irishmen reportedly on trial (3-2)
26 Paintings of small boys strike one (5)

Times Two Crossword, page 32

Solution to Puzzle No 19,732

U	T	O	P	I	A		A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y
	I		O		S		I		P		E		A	
I	M	P	R	E	S	A	R	I	O		T	A	S	K
	E		T		I		C		R		R		T	
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O		T	A	O	I	S	M
		A		J		N		J			T			
S	P	E	Y			D	I	V	I	D	E	R	S	
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P	S	A	L	M	I	S	T			S	E	W	N	
	T			S		I		R	M					
B	E	R	B	E	R		O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R
	R		E		A	N		F		S		L		
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B	R	O	W	N	I	N	G		M	I	L	L	E	T

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Glasgow, 2C (36F); highest rainfall: Isles of Scilly, 0.65in highest sunshine: Nottingham, 6 hrs.

EVER THOUGHT OF MOVING WEST?
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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will *have a frosty, foggy start to the day*, with the fog and frost slow to clear in many places. Where the fog does lift, it will be another bright, dry day. Where the fog lingers, it will be a cold, raw day. Frost and freezing fog will be widespread again overnight.

Further north cloud, rain and milder air will edge slowly south and southeastwards, with some quite heavy rain over northwestern parts of Scotland for a time.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, E England, Channel Isles:** freezing fog and frost lifting slowly, lingering into the afternoon in places. Winds light, becoming southwesterly. Max 4C (39F), a few degrees colder where fog lingers.

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N, N E England:** widespread frost and fog, slow to clear, some sunny breaks later. Wind light, south or south-easterly. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** early fog and frost clearing, sunny spells, becoming cloudier later. Winds south to south-west, *moderate, later fresh*. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, S W Scotland:** generally cloudy, rain from the northwest later. Wind southerly, fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Argyll, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Wind south to southwest, fresh to strong, locally gale. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:** becoming milder again with outbreaks of rain.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.9	0.02	4	39	b	Lowestoft	4.1	0.02	5	41	sh
Anglesoy	6.3	0.02	7	45	s	Manchester	1.5	0.15	3	37	fg
Aspatria	2.8	-	1	34	b	Margate	-	0.02	6	43	c
Aviemore	3.2	-	0	32	b	Minehead	-	0.04	7	45	c
Belfast	2.0	0.01	4	39	fg	Morecambe	5.3	0.01	4	39	s
Birmingham	4.7	-	4	39	fg	Newcastle	4.2	-	4	39	b
Bognor R	4.6	-	5	41	s	Newquay	2.3	0.20	9	48	b
Bournem'th	2.3	0.02	7	45	b	Norwich	4.6	0.02	6	43	sh
Bristol	2.6	-	7	45	b	Nottingham	6.4	-	4	39	s
Buxton	4.8	0.16	3	37	s	Oxford	2.1	-	4	39	s
Cardiff	5.6	0.01	7	45	fg	Penzance	3.8	0.34	11	52	b
Clacton	5.2	-	5	41	s	Plymouth	4.3	-	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	5.5	0.07	6	43	s	Poole	2.0	-	7	45	b
Cromer	3.8	-	7	45	s	Prestatyn	x	0.02	2	36	fg
Doncaster	5.0	-	4	39	s	Ross-o-wye	-	-	3	37	c
Eastbourne	3.3	-	6	43	b	Rydo	x				
Edinburgh	2.5	-	3	37	b	Salcombe	x				
Exmouth	2.3	-	8	46	b	Sandown	2.8	0.02	7	45	b
Falmouth	x	0.17	9	48	b	Saunth Snd	3.4	0.09	10	50	s
Fishguard	4.5	0.02	7	45	s	Scarboro'	2.1	0.02	6	43	sh
Folkestone	1.2	0.02	5	41	b	Scilly Isles	1.5	0.65	10	50	sh
Glasgow	-	-	-2	28	fg	Shanklin	1.6	0.02	6	43	b
Guernsey	-	0.23	10	50	sh	Shrewsbury	-	0.01	1	34	fg
Hastings	2.8	-	5	41	s	Skegness	x				
Hayling I.	3.2	-	6	43	s	Southend	2.2	0.01	5	41	b
Herne Bay	x					Southport	5.1	0.02	5	41	s
Hove	1.6	-	6	43	b	Southsea	x				
Hunstanton	3.6	0.03	6	43	sh	Stornoway	3.8	-	5	41	b
Ilfracombe	x					Swanage	2.6	-	7	45	s
Isle of Man	5.9	-	6	43	s	Teignmouth	2.5	0.01	8	46	b
Jersey	0.6	0.15	10	50	sh	Tenby	3.2	-	9	48	b
Kinloss	3.7	-	2	36	b	Tiree	4.4	0.03	5	41	s
Leeds	5.7	-	5	41	s	Torquay	3.4	0.01	9	48	s
Lerwick	0.1	0.03	2	36	h	Tynemouth	x				
Leuchars	5.4	-	3	37	s	Ventnor	3.2	-	8	46	s
Llandrindod	3.9	-	5	41	s	West-s-mare	x				
Liverpool	5.5	0.01	3	37	s	Weymouth	3.6	-	8	46	s
London	3.1	0.02	5	41	b	*These are Wednesday's figures*					

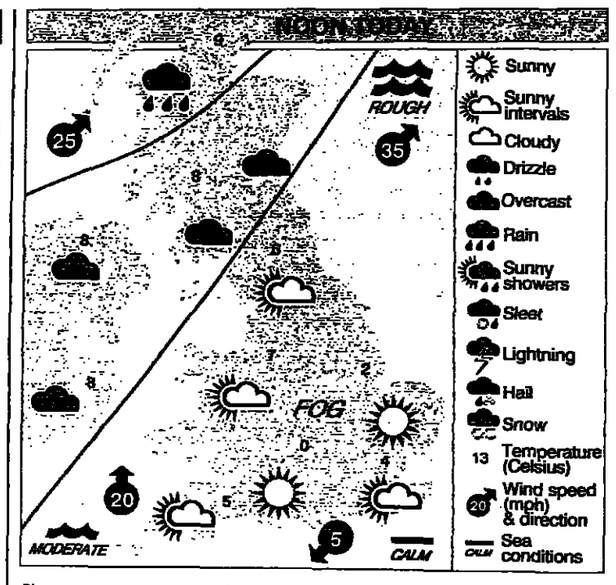
ABROAD

Ajaccio	8	46	f	C'phagn	1	34	c	Majorca	9	48	r
Alcatori	16	61	s	Corfu	12	54	f	Malaga	16	61	s
Alex'dria	18	64	s	Dublin	7	45	s	Malta	16	61	f
Algiers	12	54	f	Dubrovnik	8	46	r	Malb'rne	17	63	c
Amst'dm	4	39	s	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	18	64	s
Athens	15	59	f	Florence	5	41	f	Miami	23	73	f
Bahrain	20	68	s	Frankfurt	3	37	f	Milan	4	39	c
Bangkok	28	82	s	Funchal	18	64	c	Montreal	4	39	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	1	34	f	Moscow	-11	12	sn
Barcelona	12	54	f	Gibraltar	15	59	s	Munich	0	32	sn
Beirut	17	63	s	Helsinki	0	32	c	Nairobi	24	75	c
Belgrade	3	37	f	Hong K	21	70	c	Naples	12	54	f
Berlin	3	37	c	Innsbruck	-1	30	sn	N Delhi	19	66	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Istanbul	10	50	r	N York	11	52	s
Biarritz	5	41	c	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	8	46	c
Borde'x	5	41	c	Jo'burg	28	82	c	Oslo	-4	25	s
Brussels	2	36	fg	Karachi	-	--		Paris	3	37	c
Budapst	-1	30	sn	La Tquet	6	43	f	Peking	-7	19	sn
B Aires	26	79	f	Lisbon	15	59	f	Perth	30	86	s
Cairo	19	66	s	Locarno	7	45	f	Prague	-1	30	sn
Cape Tn	-	--		L Angels	17	63	s	Reykjavik	2	36	c
Chicago	8	46	s	Luxembg	1	34	c	Rhodes	16	61	f
Ch'church	17	63	-	Luxor	22	72	s	Rio de J	25	77	f
Cologne	4	39	s	Madrid	10	50	s	Riyadh	18	64	s

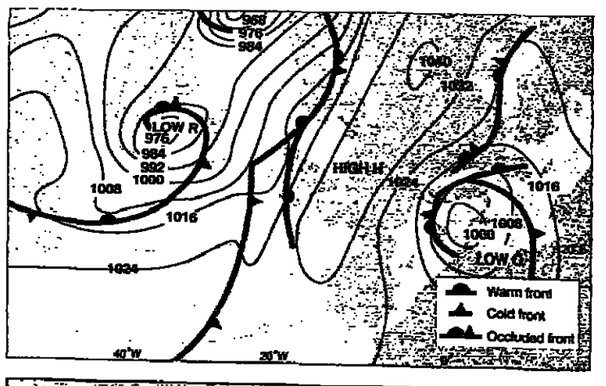
Rome	9	48	f
Salzburg	0	32	sn
S Frisco	8	46	s
Santiago	30	86	s
S Paulo	27	81	c
Seoul	5	41	c
Sing'por	30	86	f
St'kholm	-2	28	s
Strasb'rg	2	36	f
Sydney	22	72	c
Tangier	16	59	f
Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Tenerife	19	66	f
Tokyo	11	52	s
Toronto	8	46	s
Tunis	15	58	c
Valencia	15	59	s
Vanc'ver	9	48	f
Venice	5	41	f
Vienna	0	32	sn
Warsaw	-4	25	c
Wash'ton	9	48	s
Wel'ngton	17	63	d
Zurich	1	34	sn

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low R will drift eastwards and fill slightly; high H will move away eastwards and decline; low O will fill in situ



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.34	6.7	5.12	6.8	Liverpool	1.58	8.6	2.17	8.8
Aberdeen	4.25	3.9	4.32	4.0	Lowestoft	-	-	12.42	2.2
Avonmouth	10.03	12.2	10.27	11.8	Margate	2.33	4.5	3.05	4.3
Belfast	1.45	3.2	2.06	3.5	Milford Haven	9.0	6.3	9.32	6.1
Cardiff	9.49	11.41	10.13	10.97	Newquay	8.04	6.5	8.28	6.2
Devonport	6.40	5.1	9.05	4.8	Oban	8.27	3.7	8.54	3.4
Dover	1.33	6.4	1.47	6.2	Penzance	7.46	5.2	8.12	4.8
Falmouth	8.10	4.9	8.25	4.6	Portland	9.19	1.9	9.52	1.7
Glasgow	3.51	4.5	3.53	4.9	Portsmouth	2.08	4.5	2.16	4.4
Harwich	2.22	3.8	2.54	3.8	Shoreham	1.50	5.8	2.08	5.7
Holyhead	1.11	5.1	1.24	5.3	Southampton	1.33	4.3	1.49	4.3
Hull	9.20	6.83	9.26	6.92	Swansea	9.14	8.6	9.37	8.3
Ilfracombe	8.49	8.51	9.13	8.18	Tees	8.51	4.8	8.58	5.0
King's Lynn	9.21	5.9	9.26	6.2	Leith	5.43	5.1	5.57	5.1

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.05 am
Sun sets: 3.55 pm
Moon sets 10.34 am
Moon rises 10.07 pm

London 3.55 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.41 pm to 8.43 am
Manchester 3.52 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.23 pm to 8.20 am

Last quarter December 25

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1994. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 071-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 051-546 2000. Friday, December 23, 1994. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

هكذا من الاصل



INFOTECH 24

This year's most fashionable Christmas present



ARTS 27-29

Nigel Hawthorne invades America, by George



SPORT 28-32

Can Malcolm find his range for England?

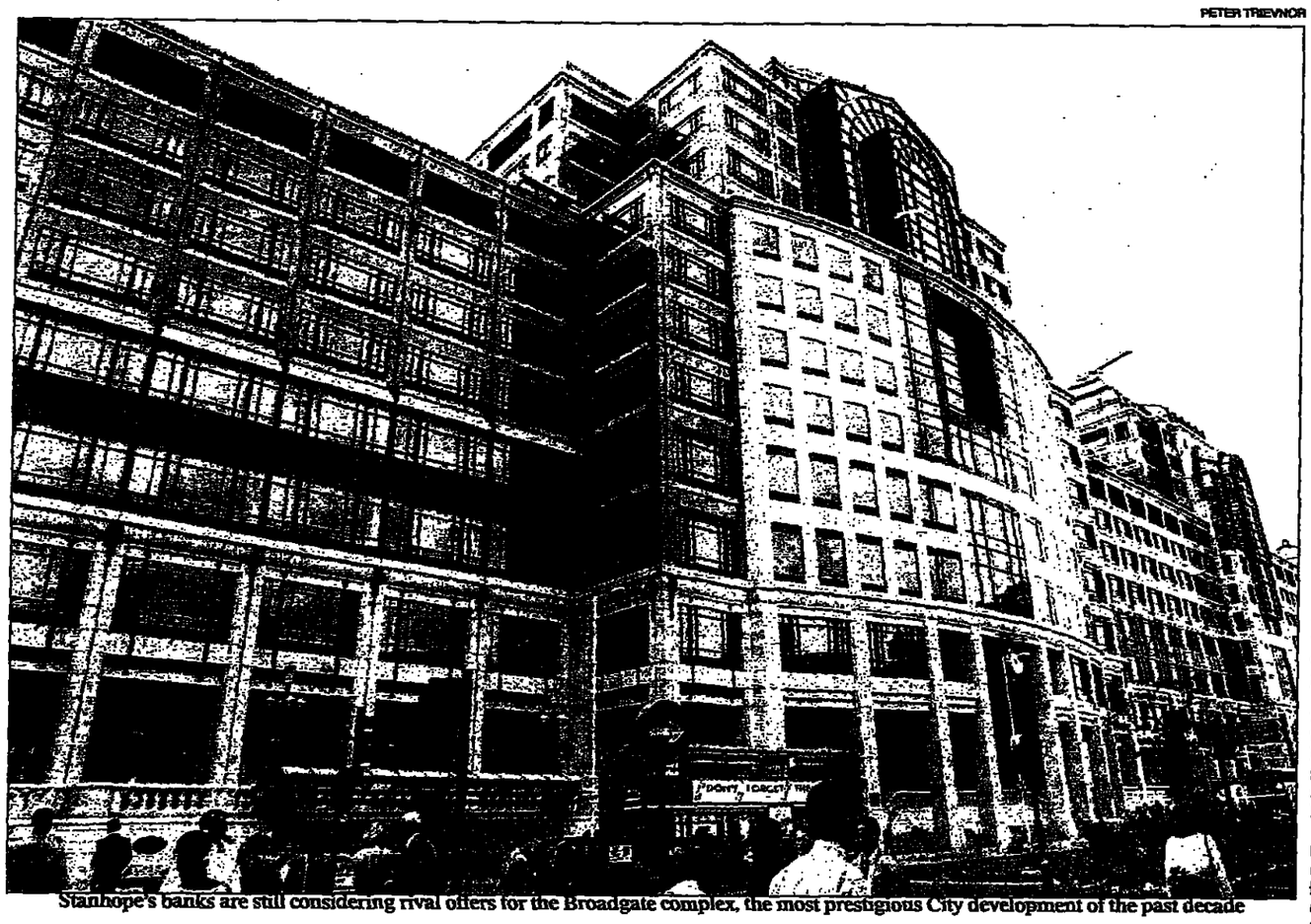
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LYNNE TRUSS ON LAST NIGHT'S TV
Page 31

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 1994

PETER TREVNOR



Stanhope's banks are still considering rival offers for the Broadgate complex, the most prestigious City development of the past decade

Hope fades for Stanhope as SE halts trade in shares

BY CARL MORTISHED

HOPES for the survival of Stanhope Properties were fading last night after trading in the company's shares was suspended. After a morning's frenetic meetings between bankers and advisers to the debt-burdened property developer, the Stock Exchange halted dealings in Stanhope shares.

A statement at 3.45pm indicated that trading had been temporarily suspended "pending clarification of the company's financial position".

One source said: "Some more time is needed to clarify the position. The banks haven't yet decided. Suspension stops the risk of creating a false market in the shares. Now we wait."

The action coincided with the expiry of Stanhope's second deadline. A £143 million loan facility fell due on Monday but Stanhope's 16 bankers agreed to an extension until yesterday as they wrangled over the merits of two offers for the company's main assets — a half share in the Broadgate and Ludgate developments in the City of London — and several refinancing proposals.

Stanhope's advisers have been keen to gain time for the company to work out proposals from PosTel, the pension fund, and British Land, the property group run by John Ritblat, both of which wish to take control of the £1 billion Broadgate Properties.

Stuart Lipton, Stanhope's founder, has also been trying to put together a rescue package involving an injection of short-term working capital from an unidentified investor.

Stanhope's bankers, led by Barclays, Sumitomo and Credit Suisse, have been divided over which route to take: a sale, a refinancing or receivership. Supporters of a sale outright have been opposed by those who believe the 60p-80p in the pound offers from British Land and PosTel are too low. Certain banks are believed to be keen for a quick exit.

A further complication is the half share of Broadgate owned by the collapsed Rosehaugh, which is controlled by KPMG Peat Marwick, the receiver. The PosTel plan envisages a purchase of the Rosehaugh half share by Stanhope with backing from the pension fund but lenders to Rosehaugh are thought to be unwilling to be pressed into an early decision on the sale of their interest.

At the suspension price yesterday, Stanhope was valued at about £13 million, reflecting the market's view of Stanhope's chances of realising any of the value in the luxury office complexes. Broadgate Properties has a net worth of about £230 million, with most of office space in the Liverpool Street Station and Ludgate Circus complexes fully let.

The promise of owning the most prestigious development of the last decade tempted British Land, which picked up a 29 per cent stake in Stanhope early this year. More recently, the bait flushed out PosTel, which unsuccessfully tried to take control of Greycoat, which found itself in similiar distress last year. The problem facing those seeking to refinance the development is the high cost of money relative to the 7 per cent yield generated on ownership of the £1 billion assets. Broadgate rents are, on average, about £40 per sq ft, still ahead of rents in top office space which peak at £35 per sq ft, leaving a new owner facing a good two years before rental growth can be expected.

Pennington, page 19

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3091.7	(+21.3)
Yield	4.17%	
FT-SE A All share	1529.09	(+9.61)
Nikkei	19333.53	(+292.86)
New York:		
Dow Jones	3811.90	(+10.10)*
S&P Composite	460.31	(+0.70)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¹⁵⁄₁₆%	(6%)
Long Bond	95²⁹⁄₃₂*	(95¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.87%*	(7.84%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¹⁵⁄₁₆%	(6¹⁵⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	102²⁸⁄₃₂	(103)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5468*	(1.5420)
London:		
$	1.5471	(1.5501)
DM	2.4418	(2.4504)
FFr	8.4355	(8.4620)
SFr	2.0621	(2.0682)
Yen	155.37	(156.31)
£ Index	79.8	(80.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5784*	(1.5805)
FFr	5.4520*	(5.4510)
SFr	1.3327*	(1.3340)
Yen	100.41*	(100.48)
$ Index	63.7	(63.4)

Tokyo close Yen 100.51

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar) $16.00 ($15.95)

GOLD

London close $381.45 ($382.80)

* denotes midday trading price

Zeneca deal

Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals group, is paying a maximum of $480 million for an American cancer care group in its biggest corporate move since being spun out of ICI last year. The British company, which is the second-biggest provider of anti-cancer drugs in the world, is buying Salick Health Care, which is quoted on the American Nasdaq stock market. Salick provides healthcare services to cancer patients. Page 19, Tempus 20

Festive buyout

Miners at the last Welsh pit to be shut down got the keys back to their colliery buildings yesterday thanks to a worker buyout. Page 18

Indonesia signs up Rover for car plan

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDONESIA yesterday signed a framework agreement under which Rover Group will advise it on the development of an indigenous car industry.

Richard Needham, Britain's Trade Minister, said Rover is expected to set up a joint venture with an Indonesian state technology company that will result in design of a new small car, codenamed Maleo, and construction of a plant in Java capable of producing it at a rate of 100,000 a year. Rover will also advise on the establishment of an indigenous component industry, he said.

The agreement underpins an understanding reached 13 months ago when Rover was still part of British Aerospace and confirms the commitment of the company's new owner, BMW of Germany, to use Rover as the platform for expansion throughout the world.

During a 12-hour visit to London, Jusuf Habibie, Indonesia's Industry Minister, held detailed discussions about collaboration by British companies on the development of his country's aerospace and oil and gas industries. British Aerospace is already aiding IPTN, the state planemaker, on certification of its 50-seat N250 turboprop.

Discussions also covered the possible establishment by Amec, the British engineering group, of an oil-rig building yard in Indonesia, a deal potentially worth $6 billion.

UK back in surplus after seven years

BY JANET BUSH AND PATRICIA TEHAN

A CONTINUING boom in British exports accounted for all growth recorded in the third quarter and helped to push the current account into surplus for the first time since the first quarter of 1987.

The Central Statistical Office said that the current account was in surplus by £846 billion, compared with a deficit of £1.1 billion in the second quarter. The visible trade deficit shrank to £1.5 billion — the lowest shortfall since the fourth quarter of 1985 — from £2.4 billion in the second quarter. Invisible earnings recorded a surplus of £2.4 billion, compared with £1.3 billion in the second quarter.

Separate figures showed that gross domestic product grew by 0.8 per cent in the third quarter, a rise of 4.1 per cent compared with a year ago. This was slightly lower than previous estimates of 0.9 per cent and 4.2 per cent respectively. The City had been expecting an upward revision and yesterday's figures weakened expectations of another near-term rise in interest rates.

Jonathan Loynes, economist with HSBC Markets, said that the trade numbers were "astonishingly good" and that, barring any unlikely, severe deterioration in the final quarter, the current account should come in comfortably below the Treasury's latest forecast of £4 billion. He now predicts a current account surplus of £4 billion in 1995.

The figures confirmed that exports are powering the recovery, with spending flat. Exports accounted for all the 0.8 per cent growth in the second quarter, while spending by Government and individuals showed no growth. Real personal disposable income was up 1.5 per cent in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter, but about 1 per cent of that came from higher dividends, mostly to pension funds, and was not therefore available for consumption. This helps to explain the lack of "feel-good" factor.

Consumer spending rose by only 1.1 per cent compared with the second quarter, and the savings ratio rose again after more than two years of falling. The ratio in the third quarter was 10.5 per cent, compared with 9.6 per cent in the second quarter. Investment remains low in spite of bumper profits for British companies, which ran a financial surplus of £2.7 billion in the third quarter, up from £1.9 billion in the second.

Investment fell by 0.6 per cent in the third quarter after a 1.2 per cent decline in the second. The weakest area was investment in houses, which fell 5.1 per cent between the second and third quarters. Construction figures showed a contraction of 1.3 per cent in the third quarter and accounted for the downward revisions in overall GDP figures.

Figures from the Credit Card Research Group showed that credit and debit card spending last month was 13 per cent higher than it was last year, at £4.95 billion. Total spending was little changed from October, but there were significant increases in some sectors, "reflecting the impact of Christmas shopping during the month", it said.

Credit card spending was £1 million higher in November than October at £3.01 billion, and 11 per cent higher than in November last year.

Spending in the "mixed business" retail sector, which includes department stores, was six per cent higher in November, at £263 million. The sector that includes bookshops, record stores, jewellers and toy shops, was 21 per cent higher at £477 million.

Spending on debit cards fell last month compared with October, down from £1.988 billion to £1.94 billion, but there was a year-on-year rise of 15 per cent.

German clampdown, page 18
Pennington, page 19

BAT can buy American Tobacco

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S Federal Trade Commission dropped its objection to the $1 billion purchase of American Tobacco from American Brands by Britain's BAT Industries yesterday after reaching agreement with the company on what it saw as important anti-trust issues.

The takeover was made against a backdrop of tightening regulatory concerns in America and mounting public concern about the effects of smoking.

The FTC had challenged the takeover, arguing that BAT would cease to cut prices on some cigarette brands owned by its Brown and Williamson subsidiary.

In a New York court over the past ten days, the FTC claimed that such anti-competition action had already begun, a charge denied by BAT.

Under the accord, Brown and Williamson will divest several brands of cigarette made by American Tobacco, and will sell off American Tobacco's sole manufacturing plant, located in Reidsville, North Carolina.

Analysts said the agreement would clear the way for the $1 billion merger, first announced in April to proceed at last.

Brown and Williamson, while still far behind the giants of the US tobacco business, such as Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds, is expected to announce increased sales of about 10 per cent this year.

BA reviews its use of Saatchi after coup

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITISH Airways, one of Saatchi & Saatchi's biggest clients, is considering moving its business elsewhere after the ousting of Maurice Saatchi from the advertising agency he largely created.

The news comes as a second blow for the business, which has already learnt that another big client, Mars, the private confectionery group, is reviewing the future of its advertising after the former chairman's departure.

BA confirmed last night that it is reconsidering the award-winning account. The airline spent £14 million with Saatchi on its global advertising campaign in 1989, and a recent marketing exercise cost a further £7 million. "We're going to be considering everything in due course," a spokeswoman said.

BA and Mars were two accounts with which Mr Saatchi was particularly associated. Another that may be at risk is that of Procter & Gamble, one of the agency's two biggest clients.

Saatchi yesterday announced that Ali Wambold, a managing director of Lazard Frères, the merchant bank, would not now be joining as a non-executive director. Mr Wambold was appointed earlier this month and had been due to join on January 1. He was introduced to the board by Mr Saatchi and his decision not to join is thought to be linked to the latter's departure.

Pennington, page 19
Memo to Saatchi, page 21

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South Thames Tec failed to control costs



Hoult: note in accounts

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL controls at South Thames Training and Enterprise Council (STTec) were so poor that they failed to meet the standards of the 1985 Companies Act, according to documents filed at Companies House in London.

The government-funded agency, where the Employment Department appointed administrative receivers on Wednesday, was heading for a second year of losses, the documents show. The council lost £1.24 million during the year to March 27, after receiving government grants of £34 million. Since then, it is understood to have run up a new deficit of £2 million.

The Council's administrative costs in 1993 were £3.3 million. They rose to £5.16 million in 1994. Despite the departure of the chief executive Michael Hanson, in August, the Employment Department chose not to back the package of corrective measures drawn up by his temporary replacement, consultant Richard Liddell.

On October 3, the department warned STTec that it was in breach of its contract to supply services. A note to the accounts reads: "... if the council cannot demonstrate that these procedures are effective by 23 January 1995, the department reserves the right not to contract with the council for the financial year 1995-96." It adds: "... if this contract is not renewed the rationale for the council would end."

Quite why the Employment Department decided to act before its January 23 deadline remains unclear. But there is no doubt about the shortcomings in financial controls at STTec. A note on accounting records refers to "a breakdown in the timely recording of transactions such that the books and records were not maintained in a manner coosistent with the requirement of section 221 of the Companies Act 1985".

The principle difficulty appears to have been the failure of staff to keep adequate records to show they had actually trained all the people they claimed.

In the accounts for 1994, Tim Hoult, the chairman, wrote: "In the last year, it became evident that we were not meeting all the high audit and financial control standards which are demanded." But he added: "The financial viability of the council is not in doubt."

Time runs out, page 21

Germany to clamp down on imported employees

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

GERMANY yesterday initiated legislation to clamp down on foreign firms that send their employees to work there.

The decision was taken by Norbert Blüm, Germany's Labour Secretary, after a meeting of European Union employment ministers on Wednesday failed to endorse EU-wide legislation to ensure posted workers do not undercut local labour markets.

Germany's unilateral action is viewed with great concern by Britain and other European countries, because Germany accounts for the lion's share of "imported" workers in the EU.

There are also concerns that German domestic legislation is almost certain to be tougher than the proposed EU directive, which is vigorously opposed by Britain, Ireland, Portugal and Greece. Foreign construction workers cashing in on the building boom in Berlin and eastern Germany will be most affected.

In an attempt to put pressure on his EU colleagues, Herr Blüm said that Germany is prepared to drop domestic legislation, once the EU agrees to the directive, which will remain on the table.

The last sticking point in the negotiations concerns the time threshold from which the non-statutory rights of domestic workers, including minimum wages, should apply to posted workers. It is already agreed that statutory rights, such as health and safety, should apply immediately.

Padraig Flynn, the EU social affairs commissioner, said that there was a good chance to get the directive adopted under the French presidency next year because the enlargement of the EU raises the hurdle for the opponents to mount a blocking minority. At present, Britain and the other dissenters together make up the 23 votes needed to block EU legislation, but EU enlargement will raise this threshold to 26. The position of Italy, which approves the directive, but opposes the lower time threshold, will be crucial.

Herr Blüm yesterday sent out invitations to the social partners in Germany, a statutory precursor for domestic social legislation. "I want to make clear that the posted-workers directive constitutes a critical element for the European Union. We would otherwise fall back into the 19th century. The principle has to be: the same wage for the same job," he said.

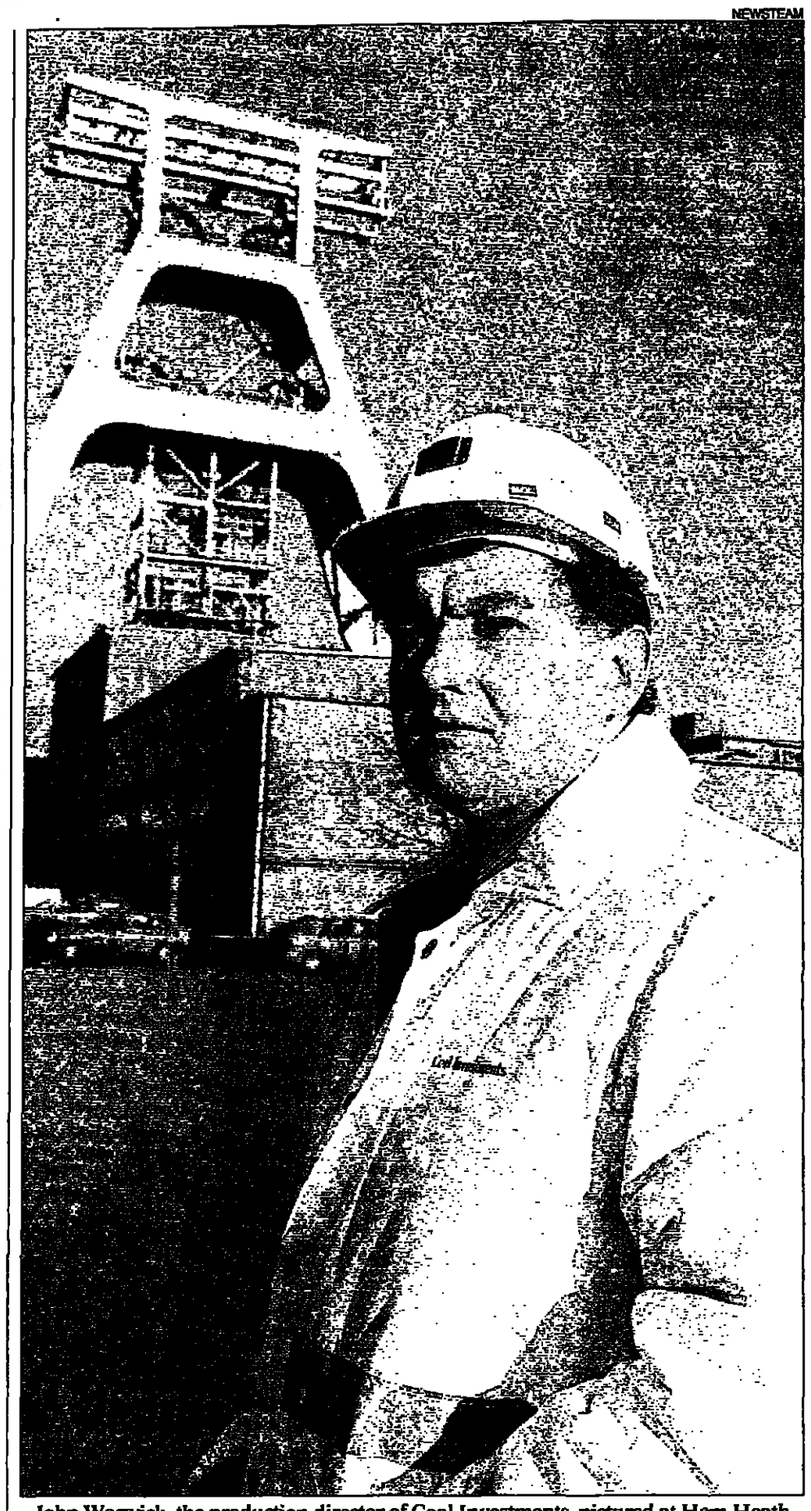
The British Government has attacked the directive as "protectionist", and an impediment to the free movement of labour in the single European labour market.

The issue is important to the Germans because several construction companies have set up shell subsidiaries in Portugal, where they hired cheap labour at Portuguese rates for work in Germany.

The EU proposal would initially restrict the directive to construction workers, who make up the bulk for posted workers in Europe.



Blüm: applying pressure



NEWSTEAM

John Warwick, the production director of Coal Investments, pictured at Hem Heath colliery, Stoke-on-Trent. Yesterday CI's shareholders approved the proposed subscription for shares in Mining (Scotland), formed to buy former British Coal assets in Scotland

Buyout puts miners back in business at Tower pit

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

MINERS at the last Welsh pit to be shut down finally got back the keys to their colliery yesterday as the new owners.

They formally took possession of the keys to Tower Colliery at midnight after finalising all the legal moves in the miners' buyout.

Coal production will begin again on January 2, when the 239 men of Tower stage a march back through the colliery gates. Representatives of the miners' buyout team travelled to London to receive the legal documents that recognise their ownership of the pit.

Tower, at Hirwaun, in the Cynon Valley, Mid-Glamorgan was the last deep mine in South Wales to be closed by British Coal, ending a mining era in the region, where 254 pits had employed 113,000 men at the time of nationalisation, in 1949.

The men from Tower formed Tebo — the Tower Employee Buy Out Team — and won back their pit after a major fund raising campaign, launched when 170 miners pooled £8,000 each from their redundancy money to start the buyout fund.

They will now produce up to 500,000 tonnes of coal a year and claim that they could sell their output two or three times over to customers in Britain, Spain, France and The Netherlands.

Tyrone O'Sullivan, new Tower director and former lodge secretary for the National Union of Mineworkers, said: "This is the best Christmas present we could ever have hoped for. It's incredible that, at long last, 239 men from the valley will be back at work in their own pit.

"To own Tower is like winning the National Lottery every week for a year. We always said we would be back and we have done it. Tower is the best pit in South Wales and we will prove it."

Tower, which will be led by a five-man board of worker-directors, is the first pit in England and Wales to be taken over directly by its former workforce under the Government's coal industry sell-off.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Law on shareholders' rights to be reviewed

COMPANY law on the enforcement of shareholders' rights and remedies is to be reviewed by the Law Commission in consultation with the Scottish Law Commission, Jonathan Evans, Corporate Affairs Minister, said yesterday. The terms of reference are to include a rule that, subject to certain exceptions, it is the company's — and not anyone else's — right to enforce duties owed by the directors to the company.

Sections of the Companies Act 1985 that allow a shareholder to sue the directors of his company if his interests have been unfairly prejudiced as a result of the manner in which the affairs of the company have been conducted will also be looked at. The degree to which the articles of association of a company form an enforceable agreement between the shareholder and the company and among the shareholders is another item on the agenda. The Department of Trade and Industry proposes to publish a consultation document early next year.

De Morgan setback

SHARES in de Morgan Group, the commercial and industrial property consultancy, were suspended at 5½p after the company asked its bank to appoint a receiver. The move comes after recent attempts by the firm to refinance fell through. The company, which is capitalised at £2.6 million at the suspension price, returned to the black earlier this year with a pre-tax profit of £11,000 in the year to April 30, compared with a loss of £258,000 previously, on turnover of £2.32 million (£1.91 million). However, low activity levels in the summer pushed the group into the red.

NatWest sells stake

NATIONAL Westminster Bank continued to pull out of its European retail banking operations with the sale of its 78 per cent stake in F van Lanschot Bankiers, of The Netherlands to a consortium of Dutch institutional investors. NatWest started to withdraw from Europe last year with the disposal of French retail branches. Its strategy in Europe is now based around NatWest Markets for corporate and investment banking and Coutts private banking operations. The bank did not say how much it made from the sale.

Oil company buys in US

ALLIANCE Resources, the London-listed oil and gas company, is buying Source Petroleum, an American exploration and production company based in Louisiana for $1.4 million. Source owns working interests in 77 wells in 11 fields, with current production of 535 barrels of oil per day and more than two million cubic feet of gas per day. An independent appraisal indicates proved reserves of 364,950 barrels of oil and 1.95 billion cu ft of natural gas. Alliance is paying for the deal with $800,000 cash and through the issue of 3.2 million new shares at 12p each. Its shares rose ½p to 10½p.

Thorn EMI defence sale

THORN EMI has agreed to sell its remaining defence group in the electronics division to Thomson-CSF, of France, for £15 million cash, subject to adjustment in line with the net asset value at completion. The sale will result in a pre-tax exceptional gain of about £3 million for Thorn. The defence group makes electro-optics and fuses for missiles. Thomson-CSF is expected to continue to operate the fusing business from its existing premises at Hayes, north London. The electro-optics business will become part of Pilkington Optronics, a joint venture between Thomson-CSF and Pilkington.

Unit trust sales soar

MONTHLY net sales of unit trusts rose by nearly £117 million to £418.9 million in November. Funds under management, however, at £91.8 billion were down on October's £93.1 billion after a 2 per cent drop in the FT-SE 100 and All Share indices. Figures published yesterday by the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, show the most popular sectors with unit trust investors were UK General (£71 million), UK Equity Income (£65 million) and UK Growth (£61 million). Net investment in unit trust personal equity plans fell from October's £245.6 million to £228.8 million.

Twin property deal

TWO property investment groups have together bought a total of 51 properties for £34 million. Merivale Moore and Warner Estate Holdings, which holds a 20 per cent stake in Merivale, have bought 49 freehold and two leasehold commercial investment properties with a combined net annual income of more than £3.7 million from AMP Asset Management. Both groups have an equal stake in the venture, which proposes to manage the properties for capital enhancement and increased income and to liquidate the portfolio over the next two years.

Warburg's Railtrack role

SG WARBURG, the investment bank, has been appointed to provide the Government with financial advice on the flotation of Railtrack and as prospective global co-ordinator of the share sale, Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, announced. Dr Mawhinney said last month that the Government intends to privatise Railtrack during the present Parliament. Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, and Ernst & Young, the accountant, have been appointed to provide legal and accountancy advice on the flotation. Railtrack was set up as a government-owned company on April 1.

Allied Domecq disposal

ALLIED DOMECQ announced the planned sale of another of its food businesses. It is selling Lyons Patisserie to Sweet 'n' Savoury Frozen Foods of Hartlepool for an undisclosed sum. Lyons Patisserie, which is also based in Hartlepool, produces branded and private label frozen desserts. The sale is the latest in a series of disposals from Allied's food division as the group concentrates increasingly on its drinks and retailing businesses. Allied announced earlier this week the sale of Lyons Biscuits to Hillsdown Holdings.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

1994 L 5217
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
LEEDS DISTRICT REGISTRY
BETWEEN:-
LOMBARD NORTH CENTRAL PLC
PLAINTIFF
AND
DEREK SHELDON
DEFENDANT
TO: DEREK SHELDON late of 2 Kinverton Yard, Kinverton Street, Belgravia, London SW1 8DB and Flat D 86 Portland Place, London W1.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Leeds District Registry 1994 L 1432 in which the Plaintiff's claim is for monies due by virtue of a Guarantee dated 6 October 1992, whereby you guaranteed the payment to the Plaintiff of all sums which become payable to the Plaintiff under the terms of a lease purchase agreement made between the Plaintiff and I. A Bowl Limited dated 1 December 1992, such liability to be limited to 50% of the liability of I. A Bowl Limited. Further by guarantee in writing dated 22 March 1993 you guaranteed the repayment to the Plaintiff of all sums that become payable to the Plaintiff under the terms of a further lease purchase agreement made between the Plaintiff and I. A Bowl Limited dated 1 December 1992. The Plaintiff, Lombard North Central Plc, claims that you owe the sum of £514 491.87 plus interest accrued thereon at a daily rate of £89.14.

And it has been ordered that service of the Writ in the said action on you be effected by this advertisement.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that you must within 21 days from the publication of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such publication acknowledge service of the said Writ of Summons by completing a prescribed form of acknowledgement of service which may be obtained on request from the solicitors whose name and address appear below otherwise Judgment may be entered against you.

Signed
Andrew Wilson Horton
Dibb Lupton Broomhead
117 The Headrow
Leeds
LS1 5JX
Plaintiffs Solicitors
Dated this 19 day of November 1994

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF BRISTOL PENSIONS LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
On 28 November 1994 the High Court made a winding up order for the company and appointed D A Howell and P R C Dresham of Price Waterhouse as it's liquidators.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at Price Waterhouse, 31 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5QD. The claims must be made on a Form 4.28 which will be provided by the liquidators on request. Claims should not be submitted which relate entirely to the deposits remaining to be distributed by British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank plc (In Administration) (Company Voluntary Arrangement) on the basis that these funds should be made in full.
The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
D A Howell
Joint Liquidator

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CLASS INSULATION SPECIALISTS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors in the above matter is to be held at The Chiltern Hotel, Waller Avenue, Luton, Beds LU4 9RD on Friday 6 January 1995 at 10.30am. To consider the Joint Administration proposals under Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a committee of creditors. In order for creditors to be able to vote details of their claims must be lodged at Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP not later than 12 noon on 5 January 1994.
Under Rule 2.22(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986, proxies may be lodged at any time prior to the commencement of the meeting.
DATED THIS 21 DAY OF DECEMBER 1994
GCA Morphitis
Joint Administrator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 7719 of 1994
IN THE MATTER OF QUEENSBOROUGH HOLDINGS PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 2 December 1994 presented to her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company amounting to £1,944,925 and for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £16,950,000 to £10,376,191.69.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 11 January 1995. ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the Share Premium Account and the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 21 day of December 1994
Stringer Saul of Marcol House, 295 Regent Street, London W1R 7PD Solicitors for the above Company
Tel: 071 631 4048 (Ref: JXD)

ALLEN PENTEK LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S Dunn FCA, a Licenced Insolvency Practitioner of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the Creditors on 19th December 1994.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up are required, on or before 19th February 1995, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Peter S. Dunn FCA of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 19th December 1994
P.S. DUNN, Liquidator

STOCKS DESIGN ASSOCIATES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Stocks Design Associates Limited is to be held at The Metropole Hotel, King Street, Leeds LS1 2HL on 4 January 1995 at 10.45am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the joint administrative receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office telephone number 0113 224 2044).
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting
GC Horsfield
Joint Administrative Receiver
14 December 1994

No 007426 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MR REGISTRAR BUCKLEY
IN THE MATTER OF STRUCTURAL POLYMER SYSTEMS LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 20 December 1994 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £1,208,871 to £1,42,871 and the cancellation of the sum of £201,000 standing to the credit of the share premium account of the Company and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21 December 1994.
Dated the 22 day of December 1994.
Boodle Hatfield
Town Quay House
7 Town Quay
Southampton SO14 2PT
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF
ATLANTIC COMPUTER (FUNDS) LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
The liquidators of Atlantic Computer (Funds) Limited give notice under the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that they intend to make an interim dividend to the unsecured creditors of the company within four months of the notice date
Creditors who have not already done so, must send details in writing of any claim against the company to the liquidators Richard Claude Boys-Stones and John Francis Sadon of Price Waterhouse at No1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by Tuesday 3 February 1995 which is the last day for submitting claims. A creditor who does not make a claim by that date will not be included in the proposed interim distribution.
Date 20 December 1994
RC Boys-Stones
Joint Liquidator

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF UNION PENSIONS AND ESTATE TRUSTEES LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
On 28 November 1994 the High Court made a winding up order for the company and appointed D A Howell and P R C Dresham of Price Waterhouse as its liquidators.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at Price Waterhouse, 31 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5QD. The claims must be made on a Form 4.28 which will be provided by the liquidators on request. Claims should not be submitted which relate entirely to the deposits remaining to be distributed by British and Commonwealth Merchant Bank plc (In Administration) (Company Voluntary Arrangement) on the basis that those funds should be paid in full.
The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit
D A Howell
Joint Liquidator

CHALMET LIMITED
(IN COMPULSORY LIQUIDATION - "CHALMET")
The joint liquidators, Dipankar Mohan Ghosh and Colin Graham Bird, are attempting to trace Mrs Van Der Kamp and/or Mrs O Shaker in connection with two items which were deposited with Chalmet before 9 June 1987, and remain uncollected.
Should the above-named individuals, who recall depositing items with Chalmet, please put their claim in writing and send it to Price Waterhouse, 10 Bricket Road, St Albans AL1 3JX, quoting reference DZG/HLB/CL/Z90. The final date for receipt of claims is three months from the date of this advertisement, at which time, the remaining items will be dealt with as part of the assets of Chalmet. Proof of identity and descriptions of the relevant items will be required before release of the items can be made.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 007424 of 1994
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 14th December 1994 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £400,000 to £305,783.41 and the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the share capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 15th December 1994.
DATED this 20th day of December 1994.
CHARLES RUSSELL
Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3LY
Tel:071 242 1031
Ref.KJS/JDH/18570/1
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

STOCKS BROS (BUILDINGS) LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Stocks Bros (Buildings) Limited is to be held at The Metropole Hotel, King Street, Leeds LS1 2HL on 4 January 1995 at 10.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the joint administrative receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0113 244 2044).
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting
GC Horsfield
Joint Administrative Receiver
14 December 1994

BRITISH GAS UK INVESTMENTS LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 2519351) ACRE (UK) LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 4338943). ACRE PETROLEUM LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 3055586).
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANIES
On 14 December 1994 the above companies were placed in Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse No1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9QL was appointed liquidator by the shareholders
The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the above companies must send, details, in writing of any claim against the companies to the liquidator at the above address by 27 January 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Anthony Victor Lomas
Liquidator

P.P STATIONERS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of the above named Company are required, on or before 31st January, 1995, to send their names and addresses to Mr. Simon G. Patterson of Messrs Booth White, 58, New Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4QR., Joint Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing by the said Joint Liquidator, are by their Solicitors or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved
Dated this 16th Day of December, 1994
PANOS ELIADES,
JOINT LIQUIDATOR.

GILLETT BROTHERS DISCOUNT COMPANY PLC. COMPANY NO: 157486. CLE-S PLC. COMPANY NO: 1999606.
(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANIES
On 19 December 1994 the above-named companies were placed in members voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse, No1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9QL was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9QL by 26 January 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The above companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Date 20 December 1994
A.V. Lomas
Liquidator

STOCKS BROS (MANAGEMENT) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Stock Bros (Management) Limited is to be held at The Metropole Hotel, King Street, Leeds LS1 2HL on 4 January 1995 at 11.15am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the joint administrative receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0113 244 2044)
Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting
GC Horsfield
Joint Administrative Receiver
14 December 1994

No 007427 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MR REGISTRAR BUCKLEY
IN THE MATTER OF STRUCTURAL POLYMER (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated 20 December 1994 confirming the reduction of the sum standing to the credit of the share premium account of the Company from £2,452,000 to £492,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21 December 1994.
Dated the 22 day of December 1994.
Boodle Hatfield
Town Quay House
7 Town Quay
Southampton SO14 2PT
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

PLASTIC SYSTEMS ENGINEERING LIMITED
(In Administrative Receivership)
REGISTERED NUMBER 1590224
FORMER COMPANY NAME. S.E.S. PLASTICS LIMITED
TRADING NAME. Not Applicable
NATURE OF BUSINESS. Plastic Engineers
TRADE CLASSIFICATION. 07
DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS: 8th December 1994
NAME OF PERSON APPOINTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS: National Westminster Bank plc.
COLIN GEORGE WISEMAN & PETER ANTHONY LAWRENCE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERS (OFFICE HOLDER NOS. 6712 & 6629) of Booth White, 6 Raleigh House, Admirals Way, Waterside, London, E14 9SN.

Income plan case will go to Lords

BY ROBERT MILLER

LAWYERS representing hundreds of elderly victims who were mis-sold home income plans expressed disappointed yesterday at the decision of the House of Lords to allow the Investors Compensation Scheme to appeal against a Court of Appeal ruling on the level of compensation.

The Court of Appeal ruled in June that the ICS was not entitled to deduct money already received from the home income plans before paying out compensation. No date has been fixed for a hearing of the ICS appeal by law lords.

Marguerite Mungovan, of Barnett Sampson, solicitors, said: "The leave to appeal is distressing to our clients, most of whom are elderly and some of whom may not live long enough to see the matter settled."

The issue of home income plans, which were linked to stock market investment bonds and have been banned by the regulatory authorities, is expected to be considered by the Commons Treasury committee next year.

Polly Peck ruling overturned

FROM REUTER
IN ISTANBUL

THE Turkish High Court of Appeals yesterday scrapped an order from a lower court appointing a Turkish administrator to bankrupt Polly Peck International's assets in Turkey. A civil court in Istanbul last month appointed a Turkish administrator to PPI's Turkish assets.

It declared that the British courts had no jurisdiction to appoint administrators in Turkey, which they did in 1990 after the collapse of Asil Nadir's PPI empire. The case was started by Mr Nadir.

Collar Holding BV, PPI's Dutch-based holding, , which sold Vestel, its Turkish electronics subsidiary, to Zorlu, a Turkish textile maker, after the appointment of the Turkish administrator, challanged the order in a higher court together with Zorlu.

The British administrators are also believed to have appealed against the verdict. The higher court on Thursday said the lower court lacked the authority to appoint an administrator and cancelled it.

Eastern steps up North Sea stake

BY CARL MORTISHED

EASTERN Group, the electricity distributor, has acquired stakes in three North Sea gas fields in order to boost supplies for its own gas distribution business and "spy" on rival companies, such as British Gas.

Eastern is buying an 11.2 per cent share in the Welland gas field and a quarter share in the Wissey field from Elf Enterprise, together worth about £12 million. The Wissey field is undeveloped but the output from Welland is already contracted to British Gas and Trevor Turner, general manager of Eastern Natural Gas, believes that part ownership of Welland will provide important information on how British Gas operates. He said: "We need to understand our competition better, whether they take more gas this year or next year."

In addition, Eastern is buying a 0.69 per cent interest in the Schooner field, valued at £2 million, from Seafield Resources. Eastern has already agreed to buy 35 million cubic feet of gas from Schooner over eight years, worth some £200 million.

Yesterday's deals follow the purchase in August of a 5.6 per cent interest in the Johnston field, bringing the total value of the gas under Eastern's control to £400 million. John Devaney, chief executive of Eastern, said the deals were tactical advances in a strategy aimed at developing an integrated gas business as well as offering good returns.

The company will continue to look for more North Sea interests, anticipating a demand for more than £100 million of gas a year. Eastern needs gas to supply the 5,500 sites served by its gas distribution business as well as the Peterborough power station and a new generator at King's Lynn, Norfolk, to start operations in 1996.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.10	1.93
Austria Sch	16.15	16.66
Belgium Fr	53.20	49.50
Canada $	2.362	2.102
Cyprus Cypt	0.788	0.731
Denmark Kr	10.15	9.38
Finland Mk	8.05	7.38
France Fr	8.52	8.22
Germany Dm	2.60	2.39
Greece Dr	398.00	373.00
Hong Kong $	12.60	11.80
Iceland Kr	1.08	0.99
Italy Lire	2645.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	169.50	153.80
Malta	0.632	0.577
Netherlds Gld	2.980	2.680
Norway Kr	11.24	10.44
Portugal Esc	282.00	243.50
S Africa Rd	nil	8.55
Spain Pta	213.50	198.60
Sweden Kr	12.22	11.43
Switzerland Fr	2.19	2.02
Turkey Lira	refer	571710.0
USA $	1.643	1.513

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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☐ Saatchi's ousting remains unexplained ☐ Good news from the balance of payments ☐ Receivership beckons

A Herro from zero?

☐ EVENTS at Saatchi & Saatchi grow more puzzling by the day. Recent developments have provided plenty of overtime for the company's spin doctors, but the riot of gossip and speculation has produced little genuine illumination.

The notion that Saatchi minus Maurice would be worth more than Saatchi plus Maurice was clearly a nonsense even before big clients like Mars and BA cut up rough. Advertising is a notoriously uncertain business, which probably explains all those awards the industry's practitioners regularly hand out to boost each others' egos. But few things were more certain than that a fair few big hitters would be following Mr Saatchi out.

The group's two biggest accounts are Toyota, which has been suitably inscrutable, and Procter & Gamble, another personal Saatchi connection. Both provide business worth more than 5 per cent of total revenues, or £16 million-plus, and either would be a grievous loss.

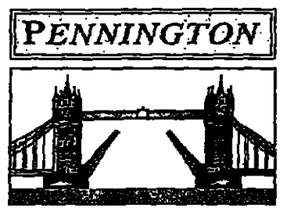
Mr Saatchi is in the States and considering his options. Company sources say plaintively that he could well remain as chairman of the Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide. He is hardly short of a few bob, and setting up an agency afresh is a relatively cheap business. The clients he would gain immediately would provide the necessary stability while he goes poaching other agencies' high-fliers.

Alternatively, he could join one of the existing agencies. Perhaps Martin Sorrell at WPP, who defected from Saatchis a decade ago, might be prepared to let bygones be forgotten and find a home for his old pal? On the other hand, perhaps not.

The real question mark is over the behaviour of David Herro, the Chicago fund manager who used his 10 per cent holding in Saatchi to push the erstwhile chairman out. Saatchi shares were sliding against the trend yesterday as the market worried about possible client defections and have now lost 5 per cent of their market value since Friday's *coup d'état*.

Mr Herro, clearly a shrewd cookie, is therefore looking at a loss on his investment that by the above logic will deepen before it narrows again, after volunteering to be the lever to dispose of the principal boardroom enemy: Charles Scott, the chief executive. The Saatchi ousting, therefore, will cost the business money, and could entangle it for a second time in an expensive and time-consuming US lawsuit, if the action being planned by an American corporate shareholder revealed on these pages comes to fruition — and all to save the cost of a salary that is small by worldwide advertising agency standards.

How can Mr Herro expect to benefit? Certainly the hitherto-obscure Mr Herro has had his reputation as a feared corporate buster greatly enhanced by his toppling of Maurice Saatchi. The next time he appears on a company's share register so prominently, the company may decide that it would sensible to make it worth his while to go away.



Trade comes to our aid

☐ BRITAIN'S balance of payments has become the key to the health of the economy. Far from being a constraint on recovery, as widely feared only months ago, it should help keep recovery going. True, the actual state of trade is not that marvellous. Including services but excluding financial payments, it was almost exactly in balance in the third quarter when it ought perhaps to be showing a healthy surplus in the wake of devaluation and the buoyant growth of North America. But the trend matters more and that is running strongly in the right direction. In the third quarter of 1993, visible trade and services were running a deficit of about £2 billion but this gap has progressively shrunk.

Exporters have focused on margins rather than volume, but the volume of exports is still growing healthily, boosting overall output growth, and the benefits of devaluation are not being squandered in higher costs, as of old. Recovery in continental economies should also help trade, provided that Britain does not run short of capacity.

That is quite a proviso. As yet, it is far from clear that the generality of companies regard exporting as a primary vehicle for their long-term growth, rather than just as something to do while they wait for domestic demand to grow faster. Capital spending has fallen for two quarters running. The picture is brighter in manufacturing but not enough companies — apart from inward investors — are expanding to boost export capacity. The burgeoning financial surpluses of the business sector are just piling up, or being used to reduce debt.

If they are scared of risk, they will be doubly scared of the risk that surging exports are merely a short-term proposition. If recent trends can be continued, then more might be convinced that they can rely on export markets. The most important conditions are low domestic inflation and, in a negative sense, continuing steady but modest growth in domestic consumer spending.

Success breeds success. If the high-profile car industry can, for instance, reverse the long decline in exports, and then regain more of its home market, others will surely gain more courage.

Stanhope springs eternal

☐ THERE can be few more ominous phrases to appear on Stock Exchange screens than "Pending clarification of the company's financial position". On almost every occasion during the recession, the clarification turned out to be gruesome and the clarified company slipped silently into receivership or administration. Some last-minute deal may prevent Stanhope going the same way, but the odds look extremely slim.

On a few occasions, the banks to a debt-entombed company have tied themselves in knots to keep a company afloat, in the hope that a living company could sell its assets for a higher price than a hired accountant. Unfortunately for Stanhope, it has difficulty arguing this case, since it has only one noteworthy asset, its 50 per cent stake in Broadgate Properties, and it is hard to see how Stanhope could get better value for it as a going concern. The future of the company already lies in the hands of the receivers to Rosehaugh, who control the other 50 per cent stake. In some ways, it would be simpler for Stanhope's banks to see the company go into receivership and then conduct a joint auction for Broadgate without suffering the legal and technical difficulties of having to conduct the transaction through a going concern.

If Stanhope is placed in receivership, it will, in many respects, be an acknowledgement of reality. Its equity ceased to have any real value some time ago, and the company's £13 million capitalisation demonstrates how hope conquers logic on the stock market every time.

Asset scrap

☐ THE City loves a scrap over an investment trust. Ivory & Sime has won its battle to reorganise British Assets Trust, not that its management record deserved it, against the efforts of Sun Life, whose motives were debatable. Ivory was only saved by other institutions who receive a commission for their support. No one emerges looking good, unless Ivory keeps its promise to do better in future.

Zeneca to pay up to $480m for US health group

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals group, is paying a maximum of $480 million for an American cancer care group in its biggest corporate move since being spun out of ICI last year.

The British company, which is the second-biggest provider of anti-cancer drugs in the world, is buying Salick Health Care in two stages. Salick, which is quoted on the American Nasdaq stock market, provides healthcare services to cancer patients.

Created in 1983 by Bernard Salick, an entrepreneurial medical doctor, Salick operates ten care centres in California, Florida and Kansas. An eleventh will open soon.

Zeneca is making a tender offer for 50 per cent of the company, which will include the 40 per cent held by Dr Salick, at $37.75 a share, costing $195 million. Special dividends to shareholders will cost a further $5 million over the next couple of years, and Zeneca has an option to buy the rest of the shares once the purchase of the first tranche is completed, probably in the spring.

The cost of the second half of the company will vary between $240 million and $280 million. David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, said: "We didn't want to buy the whole lot now because we wished to preserve the commitment of the senior management team, who are staying with the company, and ensure they continue to drive the company forward."

As well as operating comprehensive cancer centres in conjunction with local hospitals, Salick provides kidney dialysis services and other home and out-patient treatment.

Mr Barnes said cancer-related health costs could be expected to grow as the US population aged and advances were made in diagnosis and treatment. "The appeal for us it to get into a business which is complementary to our pharmaceutical business."

However, the purchase will not provide opportunities to sell more of Zeneca's anti-cancer agents into the Salick network, he added. "The purpose is not to push our products willy-nilly."

He said the cancer treatment market was worth $40 billion a year in the US, of which pharmaceuticals accounted for about $3 billion. "With this deal we expect to participate in the other 94 per cent of the cancer care market."

After the initial purchase of half the company, which is subject to regulatory review in America, Salick will become a separate company within Zeneca under its existing management.

The company had net assets of $102 million at the company's August financial year end and it reported pre-tax profits of $16.9 million that year on sales of $131.5 million.

Mr Barnes said the deal "should allow both companies to generate, share and utilise information to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness, management and outcomes of cancer care."

Zeneca shares fell 6p to 893p on the news.

Tempus, page 20



David Barnes, of Zeneca, will initially buy 50 per cent of Salick through a tender offer. The rest will be bought later

Canadian Pizza gives warning on profits

By Philip Pangalos

INVESTORS in Canadian Pizza were left with a nasty taste in their mouths after the company, which came to the market at the end of last year, stunned the City by issuing its second profits warning in less than eight months. The company's shares fell 6p to 83p on the news, compared with a flotation price of 200p in November 1993.

The last profits warning came in April, five months after flotation, when the pizza and pizza-base maker said that sales had seen a significant slowing down, while its largest client, J Sainsbury, had indicated it would axe purchases of pizza crust for its delicatessen operations.

The company now says that it has been hit by a slower than expected build-up of new business and the delay of several new product launches by retailers in the run-up to Christmas. There will also be a £133,000 payment due to the early retirement of Harry Kent, deputy chairman.

As a result, the company now expects that pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 will be about £2.3 million. Analysts had been looking for a profits figure of between £2.8 million and £3 million (£3.2 million). The company emphasised that it remains cash generative and said that it intends to recommend a final dividend for 1994 of 3.6p, payable in May, making a total of 6p (5.9p) for the year.

In a move to strengthen its position in the world market, the company added that it is looking at ways to enhance its capability to service its international customer base.

The latest warning again underlines the uncertainties of investing in flotations, especially when track records of the companies and their management are relatively short.

Tim Potter, at Smith New Court, said the warning "is a bit of a shame, 12 months after the float. Really, the expected level of business just didn't happen". The warning has also dented the market's confidence about prospects for next year, even though the shares are now yielding more than 9 per cent.

Tempus, page 20

Labour queries bonuses for Leeds society's top team

By Robert Miller

ALISTAIR Darling, Labour's City affairs spokesman, yesterday expressed "serious reservations" over reports that senior executives of the Leeds Permanent Building Society are to award themselves hefty bonus payments of up to 25 per cent of their salaries ahead of the proposed merger with the Halifax Building Society. The payments could be worth up to £50,000 each.

Other senior and regional Leeds managers stand to receive bonuses of between £10,000 and £15,000. The remaining staff this month received a flat rate bonus of 7 per cent of their salary.

A spokesman for the Leeds declined to comment.

Mr Darling said: "I can only presume that these payments are designed to influence how the executives behave towards the merger. The future of building societies should not be influenced by large payments of money which actually belongs to members."

Ged Nichols, the general secretary of the Independent Union of Halifax Staff, said: "I think it is unnecessary and insensitive to pay such large bonuses to senior executives.

"Our members have been calling us to say that their confidence in the proposed merger and subsequent stock market flotation has been shaken.

"They are now asking whose interests are foremost in this merger. Is it the members of both societies or is it for the benefit of the senior executives who will pick up fat share options on conversion?"

Mr Nichols and Clive Webster, of the Leeds Staff Association, are due to meet representatives of the management of both societies next month to discuss the immediate future of the proposed merger and how a merger would affect employees.

Mr Nichols said: "We will certainly need to be given more details than we have received up to now."

Scottish Equitable given £150m boost

By Our City Staff

AEGON, the Dutch insurance company, said yesterday that it is to inject a further £150 million worth of capital into Scottish Equitable, the mutual life company, which it took over in 1993.

Scottish Equitable also said that its new business figures, due to be finalised next week, would buck the industry's general downward trend and show a 20 per cent increase on last year's new premiums of £729 million.

Under the terms of the deal, Aegon, one of The Netherlands' largest companies, will allocate £100 million to Scottish Equitable's with-profits fund and £50 million to the non-participating fund. The latter, which includes a "significant" goodwill premium, will be used to develop Scottish Equitable's share of the pensions and personal investment markets.

Scottish Equitable said that the extra capital for the with-profits fund would be used to provide greater investment flexibility. As a result of the new capital from Aegon, which put up £206 million when the merger was signed in April last year, the Dutch company will now receive 60 per cent of the profits from the non-participating fund. This is up from the present 40 per cent.

Lord Younger of Prestwick, chairman of Scottish Equitable Policholders' Trust, said: "The potential profitable expansion of business will, I am sure, give long-term added benefit to with-profits policyholders and the fund will also benefit from even greater investment flexibility."

Ivory & Sime wins tussle over trust

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor

IVORY & SIME, the Edinburgh fund manager, won a narrow victory yesterday in its battle with Sun Life over the future of British Assets Trust, the £600 million investment trust, when shareholders voted to accept a reorganisation to protect the trust's dividend.

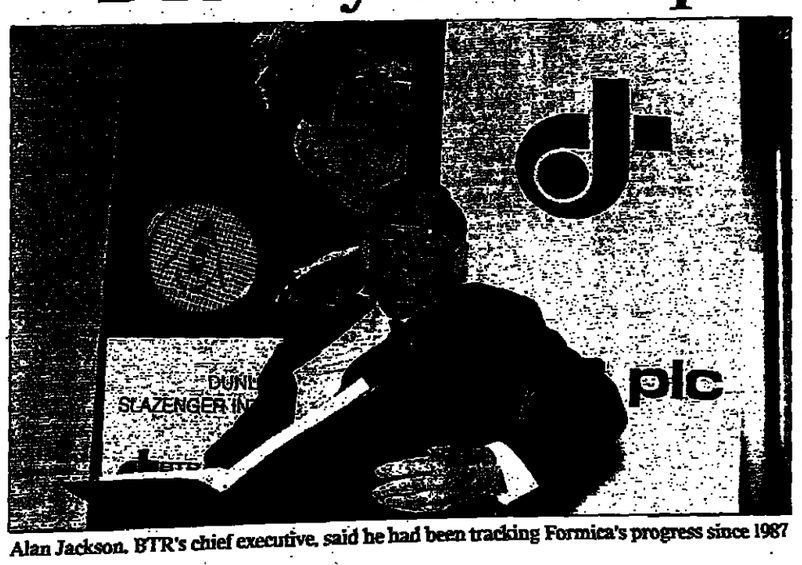
At a heated extraordinary meeting in Edinburgh, several small shareholders attacked Ivory & Sime's management record, and urged the trust's board to look for other managers. In spite of this, the reorganisation proposals were passed by 78 per cent of the vote, 3 percentage points higher than the margin Ivory & Sime needed for victory.

The proposals include splitting the shares into two classes, with 16 per cent being converted into growth shares that will pay no dividend. The reorganisation had been backed by a group of institutional shareholders, including Equitable Life, which received a fee for underwriting the share split. The turnout was high after a long campaign by Ivory & Sime to encourage shareholders to vote. More than 54 per cent of shareholders voted by proxy, with a further 4 per cent casting their votes on the day.

Colin Hook, managing director designate of Ivory & Sime, said that voting against "was like turkeys voting for Christmas" since it would force the trust to cut its dividend. In the event, almost all the votes against came from Sun Life, the trust's largest shareholder, with an 11.2 per cent stake.

Pennington, page 19

BTR Nylex to acquire Formica for $600m



Alan Jackson, BTR's chief executive, said he had been tracking Formica's progress since 1987

By Our Deputy Business Editor

BTR, the international industrial conglomerate, is paying $618 million for Formica, the manufacturer of kitchen surfaces and table tops, in an effort to dominate the worldwide laminates industry.

BTR Nylex, the group's 63 per cent owned Australian subsidiary, is buying the business and will merge it with Laminex, its existing laminates manufacturer.

The company plans to invest heavily in the business, including building five plants in China, where the market for Formica kitchen tops is in its infancy. BTR also plans to expand Formica's plant in North Shields on Tyneside, which now employs 550 of Formica's 3,400 worldwide staff.

Although Formica controls 18 per cent of the worldwide market for laminates and generated sales of $447 million in 1993, it has been burdened with high debts and heavy interest payments after a series of leveraged buyouts since 1987. Last year, it had post-tax losses of $4 million.

As well as combining the business with Laminex, which earns substantial profits, BTR plans to turn it into profit by rescheduling its debts at a lower rate. Formica has four plants in North America, five in Europe, and two in Asia. Together, the businesses will control more than 23 per cent of the worldwide laminates market and supply end-users through Formica's 7,500 distributors worldwide.

Alan Jackson, BTR's chief executive, said that he had been tracking Formica's progress since 1987, waiting until its owners were ready to sell. Mr Jackson opened the negotiations himself in October. "This is the global name in this business with instant recognition. It was a company that was going to be bowled over one day and it has enormous growth potential," he said.

Formica was founded in 1913 when the product, a hard-wearing bonded plastic sheet, was invented. At one stage, it was owned by De La Rue and then by American Cyanimid. It was floated on Wall Street in the mid-Eighties before falling victim to a leveraged buyout. BTR Nylex is paying $279.5 million for the company's shares and $338 million to redeem its bank debt.

Tempus, page 20

BRITISH GAS plc
GAS ACT 1986 – SECTION 14
GAS TARIFFS

British Gas plc hereby gives notice that it has fixed new gas tariffs to come into force in its supply areas immediately after the first reading of the meter on or after 1 January 1995. These tariffs will thereupon replace all existing gas tariffs. Copies of the revised tariffs are available by request on 0500 43 44 45.

British Gas

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Shares catch festive spirit as they near 3,100 level

THE equity market looks like ending 1994 on a high note as share prices came within a whisker of the 3,100 level after Britain's balance of payments returned to the black for the first time in seven years.

In the event, the FT-SE 100 index made a positive start after taking its lead from another encouraging performance overnight on Wall Street. An early futures inspired advance saw it touch 3,095.6, before eventually closing 21.3 up at 3,091.7, a rise on the week, so far, of 77.8. But the festive cheer meant that trading conditions left much to be desired and by the close of business only 577 million shares had changed hands.

The much rumoured dawn raid by **Trafalgar House** on its bid target **Northern Electric** failed to materialise with the latter finishing 7p firmer at £10.07. Reports of the previous evening claimed Trafalgar was poised to take advantage of the Northern share price trading below its cash alternative terms of £10.48 by snapping-up 10 per cent of the company. Trafalgar slipped 1p to 74p as Hongkong Land, its 25 per cent shareholder, bought two million convertible preference shares.

Meanwhile, there was selective support for the rest of the Recs with **Norweb** growing 12p to 841p, **Eastern**, 6p to 771p, **Midlands**, 5p to 796p, **Seeboard**, 14p to 461p, **South Wales**, 8p to 860p, **Southern**, 21p to 791p and **Yorkshire**, 4p to 691p.

Pearson, the *Financial Times* to Madame Tussauds and Lazards merchant banking group, opened lower touching 561p before rallying to finish 2p firmer at 564p on the back of a buy recommendation from the company's broker Cazenove.

Pearson has been a weak market this week overshadowed by talking of a slowdown in sales of satellite dishes at BSkyB where it has a sizable stake. BZW has been been a seller of Pearson this week. New Issue **BSkyB** hardened 1p to 257½p.

Rank Organisation eased 1½p to 408p as one broker recommended that clients switch into **Ladbroke**, 5p better at 170p.

The composite insurers remained under a cloud as the City continued to reflect on the prospect of a price war following the Halifax building society's decision to cut premiums on household insurance. **Commercial Union** slipped 4p to 513p, **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 4p to 171p, **General Accident**, 4p to 515p, and **Sun Alliance**, 3p to 297p.



Lord Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, where shares rose

Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, says Royal Insurance should be unaffected by the Halifax move because its rates are already way below that of most of its competitors.

WMGO, the fast growing advertising agency headed by Bob Morton, fell 3½p to 14p after a warning that the group would fall short of the pre-tax profits of £2.2 million pencilled in by the City for the current year. That compares with £1.2 million last time. Three sizable projects which would have generated enough income to achieve its target were unexpectedly cancelled. Only last month the group told brokers that business was buoyant forecasting considerably higher income in the second half of the year.

It is the second profits warning from a Bob Morton company in the space of less than a month. *Last time it was* the turn of **Vistec**, the electronic components and computer service group, ½p easier at 13p after going ex-dividend.

Canadian Pizza fell 6p to 83p after issuing its second profits warning since its flotation in November, last year at 200p. The group said pre-tax profits for the year would fail to meet City expectations of between £2.8 million and £3 million compared with £3.2 million last time. Instead the group has predicted a final figure of £2.3 million. It blamed a slower than expected build-up in new business and the payment of £133,000 to its former deputy chairman.

Shares of **Stanhope**, the troubled USM-quoted property developer, firmed 1p to 8p before being suspended pending clarification of the company's financial position. The shares were frozen after the standstill agreement with the banks expired. Stanhope's bankers have been in talks about a rescue package for the group which has a half share in the City of London's Broadgate development. **British Land**, which owns 30 per cent of Stanhope and has put forward a rescue package of its own, rose 8p to 384p.

Profit-taking left **Jupiter Tyndall** 7p lower at 393p. On Wednesday the group confirmed recent City speculation by announcing it was in bid talks. A few weeks ago Jupiter was being tipped as a possibel bid target for Mercury Asset Management, the seperately quoted subsidiary of **SG Warburg**, 1p better at 689p.

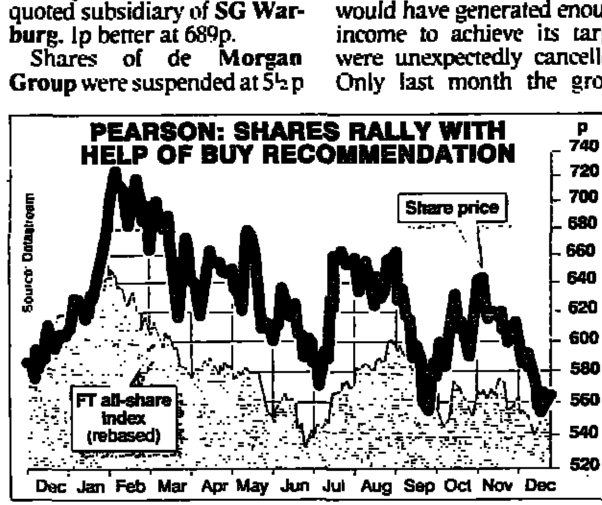
Shares of **de Morgan Group** were suspended at 5½p after asking its bankers to appoint receivers after the collapse in rescue talks. Last month the property specialist issued a profits warning saying a decline in activity would hurt profits in the first half. Back in July the company gave warning of the need to raise extra funds after an aborted acquisition.

British Aerospace rose 5p to 431p after Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, gave the shares a push. Henderson has revised its *break-up value of BAe to 800p which means the shares are trading* at a 46 per cent discount. Henderson also expects BAe to be given the go-ahead by the MMC to bid for VSEL after March 15.

☐ **GILT EDGED**: The third-quarter growth numbers and the latest balance of payments failed to make much impact on a bond market that has begun winding down for Christmas. This was most clearly reflected in the futures pit where the number of contract completed sunk to just 5,000 as the December series of the Long Gilt eased three ticks to £102¼.

In conventional issues Treasury 9 per cent 2012 lost three ticks at £105⅜, while at the shorter end Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was unchanged at £103⅝. But dealers reported selective interest among index-linked issues where prices came within a whisker of the level the Bank of England has priced the existing tap at.

☐ **NEW YORK**: American blue chips remained higher at midday following through from the robust advance of the previous session. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 10.10 points at 3,811.90.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3811.90 (+10.10)
S&P Composite 460.31 (+0.70)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19633.53 (+292.86)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8412.66 (+81.10)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 415.35 (+2.00)

Sydney:
AO 1908.2 (+2.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2100.65 (+13.99)

Singapore:
Straits 2219.59 (+2.11)

Brussels:
General 7224.21 (+50.97)

Paris:
CAC-40 1952.05 (+11.16)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 657.20 (+5.30)

London:
FT 30 2374.4 (+18.7)
FT 100 3091.7 (+21.3)
FT-SE Mid 250 3485.9 (+19.3)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1347.88 (+7.65)
FT A All-Share 1529.09 (+9.61)
FT Non Financials 1651.53 (+10.91)
FT Gold Mines 241.2 (+1.8)
FT Fixed Interest 109.79 (+0.07)
FT Govt Secs 91.77 (-0.17)
Bargains 19581
SEAQ Volume 577.4m
USM (Datastrm) 149.19 (+0.25)
US$ 1.5455 (-0.0142)
German Mark 2.4411 (-0.0081)
Exchange Index 79.8 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
E:ECU 1.2813
E:SDR 1.0738
RPI 145.3 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmnt Inv (100)	96	+1
BSkyB	257½	+1
Clydeport	166	...
Euclidian (100)	97	...
Fidelity Spec V Uts	470	...
Finsbry Sml Cos C (100)	98	...
First Russ Front ($10)	620	...
Fleming Nat Res (100)	92	...
For & Col Emrg C (100)	103½	-1
Gart Micro Index (500)	505	+5
Hydro Intnl (80)	83	...
INVESCO Korea C	98	+2
Innovative Techs (120)	123	...
Kiln Capital (100)	100	...
Leg & Gen Rec (100)	99	...
MICE Group (3)	3¼	...
Mathsn Lloyds Inv (100)	86	...
Murray Emrg Ec (100)	92	...
RAP Group	138	...
RM (175)	205	...
Residential Prop	101	...
SeaPerfect (120)	129	...
Telewest Coms (182)	172½	-4
Wellington Under (100)	102	...
Woodchester Units	118	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cowie n/p (190)	27	+2
Division Grp n/p (100)	16	-2
Inspirations n/p (120)	16	+1
MY n/p (53)	¼	...
OMI n/p (37)	2	...
Saltire n/p (12)	¼	...
Tomorrows Leis n/p (10)	½	...
Verity n/p (7½)	1	...
Walker Grnbnk n/p (90)	11	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Allied Irish	270p (-12p)
Greene King	527p (-12p)
Regent Inns	309p (-10p)
Bowmore Intl	254p (-11p)
Carlton Comm	893p (+17p)
Takeda Chem	773p (+16p)
GUS	543p (+11½p)
Courtaulds	461p (+14p)
Laporte	710p (+11p)

FALLS:

Hall Eng	150p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 23

TEMPUS

Table topping

BTR has been busy selling unwanted businesses and reducing gearing so it was obviously readying itself for a fair-sized deal. The acquisition of Formica bears all the group's hallmarks. It brings BTR a dominant *market share in* a basic industry with growth potential in developing markets like China. For once they also get a well-known brand name into the bargain.

Laminates are basic low-cost components, where price is often less important to the customer than quality and reliability of supply. BTR has an opportunity to produce high margins from the business particularly since it will control 23 per cent of the world market and offer a full range of high density *and low density* board. The price cannot be considered cheap, at 1.4 times turnover and almost 18 times operating profits. But BTR has scope to improve Formica's sales and profit margins. Formica earns less than 8 per cent on its sales, while Laminex, BTR Nylex's laminate manufacturer, is thought to generate nearer 20 per cent. Increased investment should also boost Formica's sales.

The acquisition will lift BTR's gearing by about 10 percentage points to around 50 per cent. Assuming that the group can lift Formica's margins to 18 per cent and expand turnover by about $100 million to $550 million within two years, the company has the capacity to make almost $100 million. That sounds impressive but unfortunately BTR is such a size that even a success on this scale has a limited impact on its earnings per share, of perhaps 4 per cent. The City demands something more dramatic to revalue BTR's shares than solid commercial spadework such as this.

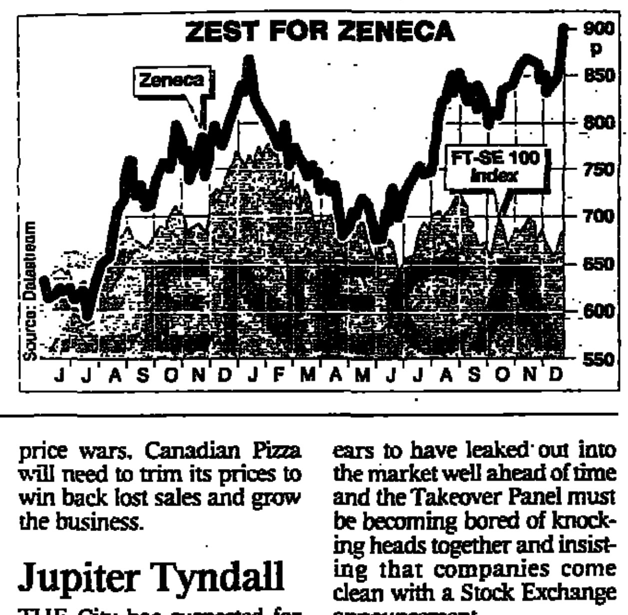
Zeneca

THERE are two forces driving Zeneca's hefty purchase of the biggest cancer care business in the US. The first is operational. While there is *no synergy in terms of allowing* the company to sell more anti-cancer drugs to Salick patients, the deal does give the British company access to important information in the form of "outcomes data" culled from the largest cancer treatment market in the world, an obvious help to its work in researching and developing drugs of its own.

This in part begins to explain the multiple of 40 times historic profits — chunky even by the standards of the drugs business, — at which the *terms* value Salick.

Zeneca's balance sheet can certainly afford it: the first tranche of the deal would merely raise gearing that is currently in single figures into the low teens.

But the second drive to the deal is corporate. Zeneca has become one of the two or three most obvious takeover *targets on* the London market, and the likes of Glaxo had been widely expected to make a move some time next year. While the purchase of Salick hardly makes the company bid-proof, it certainly enmeshes Zeneca in a complicated takeover situation, stretching over the next three years, that would be difficult for any future owner to disentangle. It is this, and not concern over the high price paid, that explains the fall in Zeneca's shares yesterday.



Canadian Pizza

CANADIAN Pizza is generous with its profit warnings: In April its trashed its share price by admitting that almost 10 per cent of its sales had disappeared. Now the company is offering investors another slice of gloom. Yesterday's serving came with *extra toppings: new business* is proving slow, with retailers nibbling cautiously at the Canadian pizzas, and profits will just meet their 1992 level.

At the current share price Canadian Pizza is valued at almost 40 per cent of the level of its flotation in November last year and investors may wonder whether it is looking cheap. Before filling their boots with Canadian Pizza, investors need to be sure that all the downside is known: the slow rate at which the company is filling the hole left by Sainsbury suggests either a sluggish market or fierce price competition. With food retailers desperate to claw back margin lost in price wars, Canadian Pizza will need to trim its prices to win back lost sales and grow the business.

Jupiter Tyndall

THE City has suspected for some time that Jupiter Tyndall was being dressed up to be sold, but few expected the *auction to begin quite so* soon. The stage was set for a bid when the group begin a focused fund manager in the summer, after it sold its offshore banking business to Cater Allen and used some of the proceeds to buy Queen Anne's Gate Asset Management from the water companies.

The latter deal gave the company critical mass as a fund manager, with more than £4 billion under its care, making it large enough to attract wealthy overseas buyers wanting to enter or expand their presence on the London fund management scene.

Like other deals in the financial sector, this one appears to have leaked out into the market well ahead of time and the Takeover Panel must be becoming bored of knocking heads together and insisting that companies come clean with a Stock Exchange announcement.

The putative bidder appears to have refused to pay more than the current mar*ket price for the shares of* 393p. This may appear mean spirited, but less so considering the shares have already risen 60 per cent from their year's low point. Jupiter is now capitalised at a weighty 4 per cent of its funds under management, way above the price of other deals in the sector. The talks are expected to drag on, suggesting the potential buyer is continental, with a German bank, such as Deutsche or Dresdner, the favourite contender. At this height, the shares have little upside and there is always the risk that any buyer may walk away.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA
Dec 1021-1016 Mar 1031-1030
Mar 996-995 May 1040-1038
May 991-990 Jul 1050-1045
Jul 997-995 Sep 1057-1056
Sep 1007-1006
Dec 1018-1016 Volume: 5665

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)
Jan 2790-2775 Sep 2720-2700
Mar 2780-2775 Nov 2720-2700
May 2745-2740 Jan 2720-2700
Jul 2720-2710 Volume 4386

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters Oct 361.0-59.5
Spot: 413.00 Dec 353.5-51.0
Mar 409.5-09.0 Mar 362.0-47.5
May 404.0-03.5 May 351.0-45.3
Aug 392.0-91.0 Volume: 476

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 21

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	81.76	124.51	121.02
(+/-)	-0.02	+10.15	+0.74
Eng/Wales:	81.76	125.36	120.13
(+/-)	-0.02	+10.14	+1.42
(%)	-55.0	-40.0	-52.0
Scotland:	unq	121.77	124.21
(+/-)		+9.45	-4.40
(%)		-55.0	-29.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical 15.55 -0.05
Brent 15 day (Feb) 15.95 (n/c)
Brent 15 day (Mar) 16.00 (n/c)
W Texas Intermediate (Feb) 17.05 +0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar) 17.10 (n/c)

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)
Premium Gas .15 B: 158 (n/c) O: 160 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC 140 (n/c) 141 (n/c)
Non EEC IH Feb 143 (n/c) 146 (n/c)
Non EEC IH Mar 145 (n/c) 147 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil 100 (n/c) 102 (+1)
Naphtha 161 (-1) 163 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL
Jan 140.50-40.75 Apr 146.00-46.25
Feb 143.50-43.75 May 147.00-47.25
Mar 145.25-45.50 Vol: 8479

BRENT (6.00pm)
Feb 15.93-15.94 May 16.04-16.05
Mar 15.96-15.98 Jun 16.12 SLR
Apr 16.03 SLR Vol: 15150

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT (close £/t) **BARLEY (close £/t)**
Jan 108.00 Jan 103.75
Mar 109.00 Mar 105.60
May 110.90 May 107.40
Jul 113.00 Sep 95.75
Sep 97.25 Nov 97.50
Volume: 301 Volume: 13

POTATO (£/t) Open Close
Nov unq unq
Apr 264.0 283.3
May unq 302.5
Volume: 71

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jan 98.25-98.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 95	2015	1990	1990
Feb 95	1980	1960	1975
Mar 95	1940	1930	1963
Apr 95	1890	1860	1870

Vol: 291 lots Open interest: 3211
Index 1962 -5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	3004.0-3006.0	2974.5-2975.0	202150
Lead ($/tonne)	644.00-645.00	662.00-663.50	154500
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1117.0-1118.0	1145.0-1146.0	379225
Tin ($/tonne)	5905.0-5915.0	6000.0-6010.0	15380
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1897.5-1904.0	1927.0-1927.5	1150575
Nickel ($/tonne)	8473.0-8474.0	8620.0-8630.0	56160

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	550	13	31½	42	10½	19	27½
(*551½)	600	0½	11½	21	49	51½	57½
Argyll	260	8½	18	23½	7	10	16½
(*262)	280	2	9	14½	19½	21½	28½
ASDA	60	6	8	10	0½	2½	3½
(*65½)	70	0½	3½	5	6	7½	8½
Boots	460	38	51½	57½	1	6	12
(*496)	500	9½	26	33	13	20½	29
Br Airways	330	30½	42	48½	1½	7	14
(*359)	360	10	24	31	10½	19½	27
BP	420	18½	29½	38½	5½	12½	19½
(*432)	460	2½	11½	20	29½	35	41
Br Steel	140	18	22½	25½	0	2½	4½
(*157)	160	4	10	13½	6	10	12½
C & W	360	25½	39½	46½	3	11½	17½
(*381)	390	8	22½	30½	15½	24½	32
CU	493	26	36	—	4	20½	—
(*512½)	543	3½	13½	—	32	51½	—
ICI	750	32	49	62	7½	29½	37
(*772½)	800	7½	24	38½	33½	57½	65
Kingfishr	420	21½	36	41½	6	15½	24½
(*432½)	460	3½	17	23	29½	37½	47
Land Sec	550	47½	60	66½	0	4½	11½
(*595)	600	11	27	33	11½	19½	33
M & S	390	12	24½	31½	5½	11½	17½
(*395½)	420	2½	10½	17½	29½	28½	34
Nat West	500	23½	36½	47	9	26½	31
(*513½)	550	2½	14½	26	38½	57½	60½
Sainsbury	390	21	35½	42	2½	11½	19½
(*406)	420	5½	15	26½	18	26½	34½
Shell	700	14	27½	37½	9½	27	30
(*701½)	750	1½	9	18	49	62	63½
Smkl Bch	460	19½	32½	42	7½	19	25½
(*470½)	500	3½	15½	24	32	42	47½
Storehse	300	18½	24	28½	1	4	7
(*317)	330	5	11½	16½	7½	12	15½
Trafalgar	70	5	8½	11½	2	4½	6½
(*74)	80	1	4½	7	5	10½	12
Unilever	1150	31½	57½	73½	13	36½	49
(*1164)	1200	9½	33½	50	42	65	76½
Zeneca	550	50	60½	79	5	22	31
(*892½)	900	18	36½	51½	23	46	55

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	390	22	34½	40	9½	15½	21½
(*408½)	420	7½	20	26	27	32	37
Ladbroke	160	15	18	23½	4	9½	10½
(*169½)	180	5	8½	14½	13½	20½	21½
Utd Bisc	300	32	36½	41	2	9	12
(*327½)	330	12	18½	24	11½	23	26

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	450	25	38	—	2½	10	—
(*471)	475	9	22½	—	11½	20	—
Thames W	460	27	42½	50½	3	11	21
(*482)	500	5½	20½	29½	22	29½	42½

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	420	31½	41	43½	6½	18	26
(*441)	460	10	20½	24½	25½	40	48
BTR	280	19	22	29	6	14	16½
(*290)	300	8	12	18½	15½	25	27½
Br Aero	409	35	47	—	9½	21½	—
(*430)	446	15	29	—	29	42½	—
Br Telcm	360	30½	40½	47½	3	6	11½
(*385)	390	11½	22½	30	13½	17½	24½
Cadbury	420	20½	27	35½	7½	19	21½
(*429)	460	5½	11	18	33	45	46½
Guinness	420	37½	45	50	2	9	12
(*451½)	460	12	20½	27½	16	26½	30
GEC	260	21½	28½	32	2	4½	8½
(*277)	280	8½	16½	20	9	12	17½
Hanson	220	18	21	24	2	6	9
(*234)	240	6	10	13½	10	15	18½
LASMO	140	9	14	17	4½	8	9
(*143½)	160	2	5½	8½	17½	20½	20
Lucas	200	10½	16	21	7½	13	15½
(*201)	220	3	8	13	20½	25	27½
Pilkngtn	160	9	14	15	5	7	10
(*163)	180	2	5½	9	18	19	21½
Prudential	300	25½	30	34½	4	12½	14½
(*319)	330	8½	14	19½	17½	25½	30½
Redland	460	20	30½	39½	15	31½	36
(*461½)	500	6	15	20	41	59	63
R-Royce	160	15½	22½	25½	1½	5	7
(*170)	180	6	11	15	9	14	16½
Tesco	240	10	17½	21	5½	13	15½
(*244½)	260	3	9½	12	17	24½	27
Vodafone	200	16½	23	26½	3½	7½	10
(*211)	217	7	—	—	11	—	—
Williams	300	27½	35	37	2½	9	10
(*324)	330	9½	17	20½	13½	23½	24½

FT-SE INDEX (*3091½)

	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200
Calls						
Jan	173½	131½	93½	60	35	15
Feb	202½	166½	129	99½	72½	51½
Mar	220	184	151	121½	95	73½
Apr	228	192	163	134	109½	86½
Jun	—	224	—	164	—	117½
Puts						
Jan	10	17½	30	45	73½	107
Feb	28	41	55	76	99½	120½
Mar	40½	60	77½	99	122½	151½
Apr	56	70	89½	110	136	172½
Jun	—	93	—	133	—	180½

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat	420	26½	32	38½	15½	22	26½
(*433)	460	5	15½	21½	41	45½	50
Amstrad	125	14	18	—	4	7	—
(*134)	150	3½	7½	—	19	21½	—
Barclays	600	40	50½	59	20½	34½	38
(*616)	650	16½	27½	37	50½	58½	65½
Blue Circ	280	25	31½	36	8½	16	19½
(*295½)	300	14½	21½	26½	17½	26½	30
Br Gas	300	23	29	32	6	12½	15
(*313)	330	9½	13½	17½	21	29	31½
Dixons	150	15½	19	21½	7	9	12
(*155)	200	6½	9½	12½	15	19½	23
Forte	240	14	19½	24	5½	14½	16½
(*244)	260	5	10½	15½	20	26	25
Hillsdwn	160	22	25½	26½	1	5½	7
(*175)	180	8	13	14	7½	15	15½
Lonrho	140	16	20½	22½	4	6½	9½
(*152)	160	6	10½	13½	14	17	19½
Sears	100	13	15	15	2	4	4
(*109½)	110	7	9	9	5½	8½	8½
Thm Emi	1000	53	78½	87½	19½	28	42½
(*1020½)	1050	27	51	61	45	51½	68
Tomkins	200	23	29½	31½	2	6	9½
(*219½)	220	10½	17½	20½	10½	14	16½
TSB	220	21	24½	23½	7½	10	13½
(*235)	240	10	14½	16½	17	20	24
Wellcome	700	47	64	77	30½	47	56
(*708½)	750	25½	42	55½	65½	75½	84

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo	650	39½	56½	73½	7	20	34
(*681)	700	12	30½	48½	30½	51½	59
HSBC	700	34	54½	73	8	34½	43½
(*726)	750	12½	34	49	32	62½	71
Reuter	460	25	37	48	4	16	23
(*478)	500	6	18	29	25	37	44

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Jul	Puts Feb	May	Jul
Royal Ins	260	23½	28½	33	5	12½	14½
(*276½)	280	12	17½	23	13	22	24½

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	110	11	14½	16	7½	10½	12
(*111½)	120	7	10½	14	13	16	17½

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Eastern Gp	750	41	54	76	20½	37	49
(*772½)	800	15	40½	52	49	64	76

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	460	43½	55½	60	7	16	21
(*499½)	500	20	33	38½	23½	34½	40
Scot Pwr	350	22½	31½	38	14	19½	26½
(*340)	360	9½	20	24½	31½	36½	43½

December 22, 1994 Tot: 26632 Call: 17490 Put: 9133 FT-SE Call: 3794 Put: 3992
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95	3104.0	3135.0	3100.0	3125.0	9555
Previous open interest: 59025	Jun 95				3137.0	0
FT-SE 250	Mar 95	3505.0	3515.0	3505.0	3515.0	71
Previous open interest: 3897	Jun 95					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95	92.70	92.72	92.66	92.71	8915
Previous open interest: 297064	Jun 95	92.00	92.02	91.97	92.01	2407
	Sep 95	91.50	91.54	91.47	91.52	2508
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95				92.86	0
Previous open interest: 2026	Jun 95				92.09	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95	94.41	94.47	94.40	94.47	21043
Previous open interest: 669523	Jun 95	94.05	94.09	94.04	94.09	6288
Long Gilt	Dec 94	102-30	103-03	102-30	102-29	303
Previous open interest: 121843	Mar 95	102-06	102-15	102-05	102-08	8954
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	108.50	108.64	108.58	108.59	841
	Jun 95				107.90	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	89.64	89.94	89.53	89.89	77305
Previous open interest: 170506	Jun 95	88.98	89.05	88.98	89.24	28
Three month ECU	Mar 95	93.23	93.35	93.22	93.34	1110
Previous open interest: 19305	Jun 95	92.85	92.95	92.83	92.94	159
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95	95.40	95.50	95.40	95.49	3196
Previous open interest: 33612	Jun 95	95.10	95.21	95.10	95.19	517
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	99.41	99.96	99.40	99.69	10467
Previous open interest: 44695	Jun 95				98.99	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¾
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 5¾ Low 4½ Week fixed: 4¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¹⁵⁄₁₆; 3 mth 6⅛; Sell: 2 mth 5⅞; 3 mth 6

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅝-5½	6-5⅞	6⅛-6	6⅝-6½	
Sterling Money Rates:	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6⅜-6¼	6⅞-6¾	7½-7⅜
Interbank:	5¾-5⅝	6⅛-6	6⅜-6¼	6⅞-6¾	7½-7⅜

Overnight: open 5, close 4¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5¾	n/a	6¼	6⅞	7½
Sterling CDs:	5⅝-5½	6⅛-5⅞	6⅜-6¼	6⅞-6¾	7½-7⅜
Dollar CDs:	5.54-5.81	n/a	6.18-6.15	6.69-6.66	7.54-7.51
Building Society CDs:	5¾-5⅝	6⅛-6			

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Nov 30, 1994 Agreed rates Dec 26, 1994 to Jan 24, 1995 Scheme III 7.39%. Reference rate Nov 1, 1994 to Nov 30 1994 Scheme IV & V 6.107%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Currency					
Dollar:	6⅛-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-6	6⅝-6½	5⅛-4⅞
Deutschemark:	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5¼-5⅛	5½-5⅜	5⅛-4⅞
French Franc:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	5¼-4⅞
Swiss Franc:	3⅞-3¾	3⅞-3¾	4⅛-4	4¼-4⅛	4⅛-3⅞
Yen:	2⅛-2	2⅛-2	2¼-2⅛	2¼-2⅛	2⅛-1⅞

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $381.70-382.10 **Close:** $381.20-381.70 **High:** $381.70-382.10
Low: $380.90-381.40 **AM:** $381.50 **PM:** $381.55
Krugerrand: $381.00-383.00 (£246.50-248.50)
Platinum: $416.50 (£269.40) **Silver:** $4.79 (£3.10) **Palladium:** $154.00 (£99.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7320-2.7362	2.7322-2.7356	⅛pr-par	⅜-⅛pr
Brussels	50.12-50.31	50.12-50.22	4-1pr	15-7pr
Copenhagen	9.5680-9.6030	9.5680-9.5820	⅛pr-⅛ds	⅛-⅜ds
Dublin	1.0135-1.0170	1.0137-1.0165	⅛-1pr	par-4ds
Frankfurt	2.4402-2.4472	2.4402-2.4434	⅛pr-par	⅛-⅛pr
Lisbon	250.60-251.70	250.60-251.26	59-95ds	250-265ds
Madrid	206.16-207.20	206.16-206.45	39-40ds	106-129ds
Milan	2539.80-2551.10	2530.80-2543.10	4-7ds	14-17ds
Montreal	2.1568-2.1648	2.1618-2.1648	0.05-0.03pr	0.02-0.14ds
New York	1.5466-1.5506	1.5466-1.5476	par-0.02ds	0.02-0.01pr
Oslo	10.6430-10.6700	10.6430-10.6590	par-⅛ds	1-⅛pr
Paris	8.4290-8.4530	8.4290-8.4430	⅛pr-par	⅛pr-par
Stockholm	11.5760-11.6380	11.5760-11.6000	1⅛-2ds	4⅛-5ds
Tokyo	155.24-155.66	155.24-155.51	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Vienna	17.17-17.22	17.19-17.22	1⅛-⅛pr	5⅛-3⅛pr
Zurich	2.0604-2.0654	2.0606-2.0636	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2861-1.2889
Austria	11.11-11.12
Belgium (Com)	32.46-32.48
Canada	1.3965-1.3970
Denmark	6.1925-6.1955
France	5.4540-5.4590
Germany	1.5795-1.5805
Hong Kong	7.7361-7.7371
Ireland	1.5225-1.5240
Italy	1645.25-1646.25
Japan	100.49-100.54
Malaysia	2.5625-2.5635
Netherlands	*1.7682-1.7687*
Norway	6.8910-6.8940
Portugal	162.36-162.46
Singapore	1.4636-1.4646
Spain	133.57-133.67
Sweden	7.4905-7.5005
Switzerland	1.3328-1.3338

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5437-1.5463
Australia dollar	1.9929-1.9948
Bahrain dinar	0.577-0.589
Brazil real*	1.3178-1.3219
Cyprus pound	0.738-0.748
Finland markka	7.400-7.516
Greece drachma	*374.25-381.25*
Hong Kong dollar	11.9685-11.9739
India rupee	48.12-49.08
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4595-0.4695
Malaysia ringgit	3.9644-3.9673
Mexico peso	n/a
New Zealand dollar	2.4136-2.4162
Pakistan rupee	47.05 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7425-5.8685
Singapore dollar	2.2643-2.2666
S Africa rand (fin)	6.2924-6.3175
S Africa rand (com)	5.5002-5.5170
U A E dirham	5.6225-5.7465

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	577	Legal & Gn	2,000
ASDA Gp	4,400	Lloyds Bk	1,900
Abbey Natl	1,700	MEPC	1,600
Alld Dom	1,000	Marks Spr	6,300
Argyll Gp	4,200	NatWst Bk	2,000
Arjo Wiggin	779	Nat Power	1,500
AB Foods	546	Nth Wst W	2,000
BAA	720	P & O	1,200
BAT Inds	4,400	Pearson	1,700
BOC	1,900	PowerGen	2,100
BP	7,300	Prudential	4,300
BTR	13,000	RMC	323
BT	7,500	RTZ	1,700
Bk of Scot	684	Rank Org	1,100
Barclays	6,000	Reckitt Col	1,900
Bass	1,000	Redland	915
Blue Circle	2,300	Reed Intl	315
Boots	1,800	Rentokil	1,600
Bowater	1,500	Reuters	3,700
Brit Aero	1,000	Rolls Royce	3,000
Brit Airwys	1,600	Ryl Ins	2,200
Brit Gas	4,000	Ryl Bk Scot	2,200
Brit Steel	5,700	Sainsbury	2,500
Burmah Cast	2,500	Schroders	192
Cable Wire	6,700	Scot & New	1,500
Cadbury	2,700	Scot Power	584
Caradon	2,900	Sears	2,500
Carlton Cms	1,000	Svrn Trent	669
Cm Union	1,700	Shell Trans	2,900
Courtaulds	2,300	Siebe	4,400
De La Rue	437	SmKl Bch	3,200
Eastern Elec	233	Smith Nph	1,600
Enterpr Oil	4,000	Southern Elec	134
Forte	1,700	Std Chartd	1,200
GKN	1,000	Sun Allnce	7,000
GRE	2,400	TI Gp	804
GUS	1,100	TSB	2,000
Gen Acc	693	Tesco	4,800
Gen Elec	1,700	Thames W	561
Glaxo	10,000	Thrn EMI	735
Granada	1,400	Tomkins	3,700
Grand Met	4,800	Unilever	798
Guinness	2,000	Utd Bisc	1,000
HSBC	2,000	Vodafone	4,100
Hanson	6,600	Warburg	1,400
ICI	2,700	Wellcome	3,800
Inchcape	1,200	Whitbread	1,000
Kingfisher	1,900	Wllms Hld	720
Ladbroke	5,500	Wolseley	1,500
Land Secs	1,300	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Dec 22 midday	Dec 21 close
AMP Inc	72¾	71½
AMR Corp	50¼	50½
AT & T	50¼	50½
Abbott Labs	33¾	33½
Advanced Micro	27¼	27¾
Aetna Life	46¼	46¼
Ahmanson (HF)	16¼	16¼
Air Prod & Chem	45¼	45½
Albertson's	29¼	29
Alcan Aluminm	25¼	25¼
Alco Standard	61¼	61¾
Allied Signal	35¼	34¼
Alum Co of Am	82¾	82¼
Amax Gold Inc	5¼	5¾
Amerada Hess	45¼	44¾
Amer Brands	37¼	36¾
Amer El Power	33¼	33¼
Amer Express	29¼	29¼
Amer Genl Corp	28¼	28
Amer Home Pr	64¼	64¼
Amer Intl	98¼	98¼
Amer Stores	26¼	26
Ameritech	42¼	41¼
Amoco	60¼	60¼
Anheuser-Busch	51¼	50¼
Apple Computer	39¼	38¼
Archer Daniels	20¼	20¼
Armco	6¼	6¼
Armstrng Wrld	38¼	38¼
Asarco	28¼	28¼
Ashland Oil	33¼	33¼
Atl Richfield	103¼	103¼
Auto Data Pro	58¼	58¼
Avery Dennison	34¼	34¼
Avon Products	61¼	62¼
Baker Hughes	18¼	18¼
Baltim Gas & El	22	22
Banc One	25¼	25¼
BankAmerica	39¼	40¼
Bank of NY	29¼	29¼
Bankers Tr NY	56¼	55¼
Barnett Banks	39¼	39¼
Bausch & Lomb	33¼	33¼
Baxter Intl	27¼	27¼
Becton Dicknsn	49¼	49
Bell Atlantic	50¼	50
BellSouth	53¼	53¼
Black & Decker	23¼	24
Block (H&R)	36¼	37
Boeing	47¼	46
Boise Cascade	26¼	26
Borden Inc	12¼	12¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	60¼	60¼
Browning Ferri	29¼	28¼
Brunswick	18¼	18¼
Burlington Nthn	48¼	48¼
CBS	53¼	54¼
CNA Financial	66¼	66¼
CPC Intl	53¼	53¼
CSX	68¼	68
Campbell Soup	44¼	44¼
Can Pacific	15¼	15¼
Cptl Cities ABC	84¼	84¼
Carolina Pwr	26¼	26¼
Caterpillar	53¼	53¼
Central & SW	22¼	22¼
Champion Intl	37¼	37¼
Chase Manhat	34	34¼
Chemical Bk	36¼	36¼
Chevron Corp	44¼	44¼
Chrysler	49	46¼
Chubb Corp	77¼	77¼
Cigna Corp	62¼	62¼
Citicorp	41¼	43¼
Clorox	58¼	58¼
Coastal Corp	25¼	25¼
Coca Cola	51¼	52¼
Colgate-Palmolive	62¼	63¼
Columbia Gas	23¼	24
Compaq Comp	39¼	39¼
Comp Ass Intl	47¼	47¼
ConAgra	31¼	31¼
Cons Edison	25¼	25¼
Cons Nat Gas	35¼	35¼
Cons Rail	49¼	49¼
Cooper Inds	33¼	33¼
Corning Inc	29¼	30
Crown Cork	38¼	38¼
Dana Corp	23¼	23¼
Dayton Hudson	75¼	75¼
Deere	65¼	65¼
Delta Air Lines	46¼	46¼
Deluxe Corp	26¼	26¼
Detroit Edison	26¼	26¼
Digital Equip	34¼	34¼
Dillard Dept St	27¼	27¼
Disney (Walt)	45¼	44¼
Dominion Res	36¼	36¼
Donnelley (RR)	29¼	28¼
Dover Corp	52	52¼
Dow Chemical	66¼	67¼
Dow Jones	31¼	31¼
Dresser	19¼	19¼
Duke Power	39¼	38¼
Dun & Brdstreet	54¼	54
Du Pont	55¼	55¼
Eastman Kodak	46¼	46¼
Eaton Corp	49¼	47¼
Emerson Elec	61¼	61¼
Engelhard Corp	22	23
Enron Corp	30¼	30¼
Entergy	21¼	22¼
Ethyl Corp	9¼	9¼
Exxon	61¼	61¼
FMC Corp	58¼	59
FPL Group	35¼	35¼
Federal Express	58¼	59
Fed Nat Mtge	73¼	73¼
First Chicago	47¼	48
First Interstate	68¼	69¼
First Union Rlty	6¼	6¼
Fleet Finl Grp	33	32¼
Fluor Corp	44¼	44
Ford Motor	26¼	26¼
GTE Corp	30¼	30¼
Gannett	53¼	53¼
Gap Inc Del	30¼	31¼
Gen Dynamic	43¼	43¼
Gen Electric	50¼	49¼
Gen Mills	57¼	56¼
Gen Motors	38¼	37¼
Gen Reinsurance	128¼	129¼
Gen Signal	32¼	32¼
Genuine Parts	36¼	36¼
Georgia Pac	73¼	73¼
Gillette	75¼	75¼
Glaxo ADR	20¼	21¼
Goodrich (BF)	44¼	44¼
Goodyear Tire	33¼	33
Grace (W&R)	39¼	39¼
Gt All Pac Tea	17¼	17¼
Great Wstn Fin	16¼	16¼
Halliburton	34¼	34¼
Harcourt General	35¼	35¼
Heinz (HJ)	36¼	36¼
Hercules	113	113
Hershey Foods	48¼	49¼
Hewlett Packard	98¼	97¼
Hilton Hotels	68¼	64¼
Home Depot	46¼	46¼
Homestake Mng	16¼	16¼
Honeywell	30¼	29¼
Household Intl	38¼	38¼
Houston Inds	35¼	35¼
Humana	22¼	22¼
ITT Corp	83¼	83¼
Illinois Tool	42¼	41¼
Illinova	21¼	21
INCO	28¼	29
Ingersoll Rand	31¼	31¼
Inland Steel	34¼	34¼
Intel Corp	63	62¼
IBM	74¼	73¼
Intl Flav & Fr	46¼	46¼
Intl Paper	76¼	76¼
James River Va	21	20¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	55	54¼
Kellogg	60¼	60¼
Kerr-McGee	46¼	45¼
Kimberly-Clark	51	50¼
Kmart	13¼	13¼
Knight-Ridder	50¼	50¼
Lilly (Eli)	64¼	65¼
Limited Inc	19	18¼
LIN Brdcstng	144	144¼
Lincoln Nat	35¼	35¼
Litton	35¼	35¼
Liz Claiborne	17¼	17¼
Lockheed	70¼	70
Louisiana Pac	28¼	26¼
MCI Comms	18¼	19
Marriott Int	27¼	27¼
Marsh & McLnn	79¼	79¼
Masco Corp	23¼	23¼
May Dept St	34¼	33¼
Maytag Corp	14¼	14¼
McDonalds	28¼	28¼
McDonnell D	142¼	142¼
McGraw Hill	68¼	68¼
Mead Corp	49¼	49¼
Medtronic	54¼	54¼
Mellon Bk	31¼	31¼
Melville Corp	31¼	30¼
Merck Inc	39	39¼
Merrill Lynch	35¼	35¼
Minnesota Mine	52¼	52¼
Mobil Corp	85¼	84¼
Monsanto	68¼	68¼
Morgan (JP)	55¼	55¼
Motorola Inc	57¼	57¼
Natl Medical	13¼	13¼
Natl Semi	18¼	18¼
Natl Service Ind	25¼	25¼
Navistar Int	15¼	15
NBD Bancorp	28¼	29¼
NY Times A	21¼	21¼
Newmont Mng	34¼	34¼
Niag Mohawk	13¼	13¼
Nike B	74¼	74¼
NL Industries	12¼	11¼
Noram Energy	5¼	5¼
Nordstrom	43¼	44¼
Norfolk Sthrn	60¼	60¼
Nthn State Pwr	45¼	45¼
Norwest Corp	22¼	22¼
Nynex Corp	37¼	37¼
Occidental Pet	19¼	19¼
Ohio Edison	19¼	19¼
Oracle Systems	43¼	42¼
Oryx Energy Co	11¼	11¼
Owens Corning	30¼	30¼
PNC Financial	22¼	22¼
PPG Industries	39¼	39¼
Paccar Inc	44¼	45
Pacificorp	18¼	18¼
Pac Enterprises	21¼	21¼
Pac Gas & Elec	24¼	24¼
Pac Telesis	29¼	29¼
Pall Corp	19¼	19¼
Panhandle East	19¼	20¼
Parker Hannifin	45¼	45¼
Peco Energy	24¼	24¼
Penney (JC)	42¼	42¼
Pennzoil	44¼	44¼
Pepsico	36¼	36¼
Pfizer	77¼	78¼
Phelps Dodge	59¼	59¼
Philip Morris	56¼	57¼
Phillips Pet	34¼	34
Pitney Bowes	31¼	31¼
Polaroid	32	31¼
PriceCostco	13	13¼
Procter & Gmbl	62¼	62¼
Providian	30¼	30¼
Pub Serv E & G	26¼	26¼
Quaker Oats	30¼	30¼
Ralston Purina	44¼	44¼
Raychem Corp	35¼	35¼
Raytheon	63¼	63¼
Reebok Intl	39¼	39¼
Reynolds Metals	49¼	49
Roadway Srvcs	51¼	51¼
Rockwell Intl	35¼	35¼
Rohm & Haas	58¼	58¼
Royal Dutch	107	107¼
Rubbermaid	29¼	29¼
Safeco Corp	51	51¼
St Paul's Cos	45¼	44¼
Salomon Inc	38¼	37¼
Santa Fe Pac	17¼	13
Sara Lee Corp	25¼	25¼
Scecorp	15¼	14¼
Schering Plough	75¼	74¼
Schlumberger	50¼	50¼
Scott Paper	70	69¼
Seagram	29¼	29¼
Sears Roebuck	45¼	45¼
Shell Trans	64¼	64¼
Sherwin Wllms	32¼	32¼
Skyline Corp	17¼	17¼
Snap-On-Tools	33	33
Southern Co	20¼	20¼
Sthwestern Bell	41	41¼
Sprint Corp	27¼	27¼
Stanley Works	37¼	37¼
Sun Company	28¼	28¼
Sun Microsys	36¼	35¼
Suntrust	49¼	49¼
Supervalu	24¼	24¼
Sysco Corp	26¼	26¼
TRW Inc	65¼	66¼
TCC Inds	2¼	2¼
Tandem Comp	17	17
Tandy Corp	50¼	49¼
Teledyne	20¼	20¼
Temple Inland	45¼	45¼
Tenneco	43¼	42¼
Texaco	60¼	61
Texas Inst	72¼	73¼
Texas Utilities	32¼	32
Textron	49¼	50¼
Time Warner	33¼	33¼
Times-Mirror	31¼	31¼
Timken	34¼	34¼
Torchmark	34¼	35¼
Toys R Us	33¼	33¼
Transamerica	50¼	50¼
Travelers	32¼	33¼
Tribune	54¼	54
Tyco Labs	47¼	48
UST Inc	27¼	27¼
UAL	86	86
USX Marathon	16¼	16¼
Unicom	24¼	24¼
Unilever NV	115¼	114¼
Union Camp	48¼	48¼
Union Carbide	29¼	30
Union Pacific	46¼	46¼
Unisys Corp	8¼	8¼
USAir Group	4¼	4¼
USF&G Corp	14	13¼
US Life	35¼	35¼
US West	36¼	36¼
United Tech	61¼	61¼
Unocal Corp	26¼	27
Upjohn	31¼	31¼
VF Corp	47¼	47¼
WMX Tech	26¼	26¼
Wal-Mart Stores	22¼	22¼
Warner-Lambert	77¼	77¼
Wells Fargo	147¼	148¼
Westinghouse El	12¼	12¼
Weyerhaeuser	38¼	38
Whirlpool	50¼	50¼
Whitman	16	16
Winn Dixie	52¼	52¼
Woolworth	14¼	14¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	49¼	48¼
Xerox	98¼	97¼
Yellow Corp	20¼	21¼

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Memo to Maurice Saatchi: launching an ad agency ain't what it used to be

A fresh start in advertising in the 1990s is a tall order, says **Winston Fletcher**



Martin Sorrell, left, and David Ogilvy developed international advertising agencies by acquisition, a route that Maurice Saatchi, right, might well find closed if he goes solo

The word "new" is, said David Ogilvy, the illustrious Scot who founded Ogilvy & Mather, "one of the most powerful words in the advertising dictionary".

Maurice Saatchi must be pondering whether that dictum is still as true today as it was when he launched Saatchi & Saatchi in 1970. Having been publicly scolded and demoted by Saatchi & Saatchi's institutional shareholders, the temptation to quit and set up a new agency must be powerful. But would it be wise?

Ogilvy, who became chairman of WPP — despite having once dubbed WPP's Martin Sorrell "an odious little jerk" — founded his own agency in 1948 and developed it into one of the world's largest long before the Saatchi brothers were even a gleam in Margaret Thatcher's eye. Interestingly, like the Saatchis, he built his operation by buying into agencies around the world faster than you can say p/e ratio. That's the way major multinational agencies used to be built. But as Maurice Saatchi well knows, it's a lot more difficult today.

Ogilvy proffered no evidence in support of his view of "new". But he proclaimed it with such confidence that it was quickly embraced by advertising folk and has become established dogma. (Confidence is another powerful world in the advertising dictionary.) Wherever it's all happening, wherever it's at, admen want to be there first. New jargon, new magic ingredients, new clothes, new cars, new spouses and, above all, new agencies.

When times are good, new agencies are spawned faster than baby bunnies at a rabbit orgy. Even in hard times, the birth-rate hardly slackens. During the long recession, when advertising suffered badly and the people employed in agencies fell from 15,400 to just over 11,000, at least eight infants burst lustily into the cruel world. Now, with advertising recovering strongly (up 9 per cent this year), rumour has it that a creche-full of toddlers is on the way. Next year could easily see half a dozen launches — that was about the annual average during the booming 1980s.

So, if Maurice Saatchi does begin again, he will face lots of competition. However, his reputation, his contacts, and his standing in the business will clearly give him a flying start. And he will enjoy another advantage denied to other start-ups. Most agency founders, like other wannabe entrepreneurs, are required personally to guarantee the company overdraft. This means putting their homes, their families and even their Armani suits on the line. I've done it twice, and it's painful. I would not do it again. However, investors, word has it, are already tumbling over themselves to pump money into Maurice's putative shop. Lucky fellow.

Moreover, several of Saatchi & Saatchi's major clients — particularly British Airways and the Mars family — supported him publicly during his recent boardroom battle, leading to speculation that their business might well follow him if he begins again. This speculation reflects the widespread myth that baby agencies initially feed off their parents, umbilically as it were, by taking a few accounts with them when they leave. It almost never happens. Few clients like to be seen to be "in the pocket" of particular individuals. And almost all major clients appoint agencies, not individuals, to handle their accounts because they are all too aware that in advertising — perhaps more than in any other business — people, like fashions, come and go.

Certainly there are exceptions to these principles. When Frank Lowe left Collett, Dickenson, Pearce, 13 years ago, he pillaged many of his previous agency's clients, including Fiat, Whitbread and Heineken. No remotely similar major breakaway has occurred since. And even in Lowe's case, he did not try to snaffle the clients on his own.

Lowe took with him some 20 CDP senior staffers who were close to the clients and respected by them. Quite apart from whether his contract precludes him doing so, it is by no means certain that Maurice Saatchi could pull such a top team out of Saatchi & Saatchi. Nor was Lowe's new agency blessed with instant success. It was not until he and his partners joined up with the American Interpublic Group, and so started to win massive international accounts, such as Coca-Cola and General Motors, that his agency really started motoring.

And there, for Maurice, in the mid-1990s, is the rub. To handle huge international clients — such as British Airways and Mars — you must be able to provide them with a worldwide network of offices. That is precisely why the Saatchi brothers, and Ogilvy before them, raced around the world gobbling up the best agencies available in all the major markets. But it is no longer possible to nip on a plane and snap up an international network. All the good international networks, and most of the good agencies around the world, have either been bought or cannot be bought. There are just 16 multinational agency networks with offices in 30 or more countries, and it would now be at least as difficult to build a new one as to start a mass-production automobile company. Even the mighty Japanese agency Dentsu — coming late to the race — has been unable to build up a solid international operation. The runners are out on the track and the entry-list has closed.

This is something of which Maurice Saatchi is well aware. He recently, by chance, told me that he had rushed to build his worldwide network in the 1970s because, as he put it, he "felt the gates were closing". He was right.

Nor is there much point in launching an agency unless you can see a toothsome, capital-generating exit. Nobody nowadays leaves agencies to their kids. For agency-builders to bag their crocks of gold, it is necessary for them to sell all or part of their shop, one day, to somebody else. But who will they sell to in future? In the 1980s, agencies tumbled onto the stock market helter-skelter, like Smarties. The Saatchis started the rush. And each new flotation spawned yet another group of teenybopper agency millionaires.

However, the London stock market is unlikely ever again to greet agency flotations with the exuberance it did in the 1980s. And the other traditional exit route, selling to a foreign multinational agency seeking to muscle in on the UK market, is hardly more promising. The multinational groups are already here. And any way, they are now much more interested in investing in the thriving, dynamic new Pacific Rim markets than in slow-growing Britain.

So, the long-term future for infant agencies looks distinctly hazy. They can build themselves to a modest size on British business alone. And there are a handful of multinational clients who can be, and are willing to be, serviced from London, without the involvement of offices in other countries. But, as multinational advertising continues its slow but remorseless upward trend, the share of the advertising cake available to local agencies will continue to dwindle. (In my own agency, five years ago, only 3 per cent of our income was attributable to multinational clients. Today, that figure exceeds 40 per cent). For Maurice Saatchi — and for all the other new baby-boomers — fighting for a share of a diminishing local market can hardly be an attractive prospect. Launching new ad agencies ain't what it used to be.

Winston Fletcher's new book, "How To Capture The Advertising High Ground", is published by Century at £17.99

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Goodbye, Mr Smiff

RETIRING after 51 years in the City, Leslie James Smith, a director of private client stockbroker Brewin Dolphin, will today be bade a fond farewell by colleagues. Smith, who insists his surname is always spelt with two "f"s, is noted for his expertise concerning gold coins, collects English Crowns (the old 5/-), plays the piano, often hits bullseye at darts, loves car boot sales, and tinkers with clocks and lawn mowers in his spare time. But there is a symbolism surrounding Smith that is not lost on his colleagues. Smith was born in Dagenham on October 19, 1929 — four days ahead of the Wall Street crash, and his birthday coincided with Black Monday — October 19, 1987 — when the London market crashed. He insists he had nothing to do with either event. However, if stock markets prosper every October from here on, it could be because Smith (with two "f"s) has retired.

Lucky cove

CHRIS LEAHY, corporate financier at Butterfield Securities (the old Seymour Pierce) was in Barbados attending the opening of Crystal Cove Hotel, owned by his clients St James Beach Hotels, which he helped to bring to market earlier this year, and while in the sun received a message from his office that GQ magazine had been on the phone to tell him he had won a competition — a two-week holiday for two in Barbados.



Fair shares

STOCK Exchange dealers remain incensed that the market is staying open until 4.30pm today. Meanwhile, colleagues in the gilts market and at Liffe will be packing their Christmas pudding under their arms and heading for home at 12.30pm. A board meeting of the Stock Exchange Council devoted a whole ten minutes to the question of an early close, and decided against it after pressure from US brokerage houses. London houses are not in their best Christmas spirit — it will cost money to keep prices on the screens without doing any business, and traders intend phoning at least one council member each at 4pm to see if they have gone home. So how about a change of heart, Mr Stock Exchange? Or, at the very least, declare next Friday a half-day?

Stuffed

MILDRED was taken out for a special City lunch by John Gilmour, vice-president of Nordbanken, yesterday. So don't believe it when next you're told that bankers never take anyone out for lunch and fisherman *always* tell fibs. Mildred, named after John's mother-in-law, used to live in Hampshire, was well behaved and the centre of attraction at luncheon. She had tears in her eyes, and weighed 10½lb. The banker was determined to show off Mildred, whom he met on a Hampshire chalk stream, to his City friends. You see, Mildred is a fine specimen of a trout and had just returned from her latest outing ... to the taxidermist.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Philip Bassett and **Ross Tieman** report on the arrival of the receivers

Time and money run out for Tec

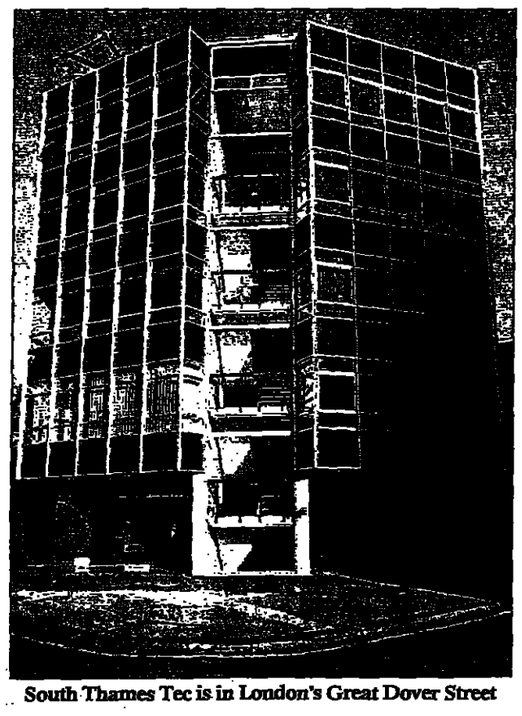
Scott Barnes, one of Britain's leading insolvency specialists, walked into the offices of South Thames Training and Enterprise Council (STTec) on Great Dover Street at 9.20am yesterday with a five-strong team of accountants in tow. They had come to see Tim Hoult, a senior partner at Price Waterhouse, one of the Big Six accountancy firms, and the unpaid, non-executive chairman of the first Tec in Britain to go bust.

The sense of shock and bitterness at the Tec was palpable. STTec knew it was in trouble but directors thought they had won a breathing space to cure its difficulties.

Yesterday, however, it remained unclear why it took so long to recognise and confront the financial problems. STTec was already losing money when Mr Hoult was appointed to the chair on June 16, 1993. After the departure of the chief executive, Michael Hanson, in August, the board had appointed a consultant, Richard Liddell, to tackle STTec's problems. He drew up a restructuring package, including almost 40 redundancies to bring the staff down from 170 to 133.

On October 3, the Employment Department issued a breach of contract notice to the Tec. Unless STTec could demonstrate effective administrative and control procedures by January 23, it risked losing its contract to act as an agent next year, the notice said.

This week, when the Department and the Tec board failed to agree on additional financing to fund the restructuring, the Tec directors asked the department, which is responsible for the Tec's £2 million deficit, to appoint an administrative receiver. Mr Barnes, of Grant Thornton, was formally appointed late on Wednesday. Yesterday, there were suggestions that STTec's responsibilities may now be carved up between its better-run neighbours including Solotec to the south and Aztec, to the west.



South Thames Tec is in London's Great Dover Street

Some within the Tec movement suspect the decision to bring down STTec is part of a wider power struggle between the Government and the nine London Tecs. Last August, Ann Widdecombe, the Employment Minister, called together the chairmen of the London Tecs to propose some mergers to reduce costs and improve efficiency in the delivery of services. She received a cool response.

Now, Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, is believed to have convened a new meeting of the London Tec chairmen in January. This time, the department may get its way.

Appointing receivers to South Thames Tec is the most potent symbol yet of the problems that have hit the Government's private-sector led training bodies. Climaxing what has been the roughest year in Tecs' short lifespan since the idea for them was first imported from America in 1987, ministers and Tec leaders insist that the collapse of STTec is an isolated oddity.

But for many Tec critics, it is a culmination of concern which has run throughout the last 12 months:

☐ **Bennett.** The first in-depth, independent study of Tecs, carried out by Bob Bennett, of the London School of Economics, was highly critical of their performance — with the hurt for Tec leaders all the worse because Professor Bennett was essentially highly sympathetic towards them.

☐ **Bradford.** The chief executive of Bradford Tec resigned abruptly while the local training and enterprise board investigated the running of the council and alleged irregularities about the way some training programmes were being operated.

☐ **Media.** Tec leaders began to feel beleaguered by what they viewed as almost wholly critical media interest, fuelled especially by a BBC Panorama documentary that alleged waste and inefficiency.

☐ **OECD.** As well as a searching but constructive indictment of Tec performance by the CBI, in an unpublished but widely known-about analysis for its two-year Jobs Study, the OECD said that Tecs had so far failed to live up to expectations.

☐ **Portillo.** When Michael Portillo became Employment Secretary, many Tec leaders judged that he was the first person to hold the job who was not a declared Tec supporter.

☐ **Budget.** And they were largely proved right when in Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's Budget, they found Mr Portillo had agreed to large-scale cuts of 20 per cent in the funding for the Tecs' main programme for the adult unemployed.

Despite the shock and embarrassment of all this and STTec too, it has not all been one way. Tecs finally organised themselves into a long-delayed strengthening of their national body, appointing a seasoned Whitehall operator — BT deputy chairman Mike Bett — as their new chairman and a highly regarded local Tec leader, Chris Humphries, as policy head; improved their media relations; and basked in the approval of a warm speech on their importance from the Prince of Wales.

But though the receivership of STTec may be an isolated case — ministers and Tec leaders insist that the finances of every other one of the 82 Tecs are sound — it raises again the core concern about Tecs: their level and form of accountability.

Some in the Treasury, for instance, have always been and remain highly suspicious of Tecs. Partly that is because a substantial slice of public money has been removed from the Treasury's direct control, which the Treasury never likes. But partly it's because Treasury officials suspect that the private-sector business leaders who make up the governing boards of Tecs do not have a sufficiently rigorous, Public Accounts Committee-style approach to the use of taxpayers' money as they ought.

In reply, business leaders on the Tec boards maintain that Treasury and Employment Department civil servants do not understand the nature of risk in the private sector, and that their overseeing is wildly over-bureaucratic.

Combining both may lead to what some independent analysts of Tecs suggest is their real problem. Tecs may have slipped between the discipline of public sector, PAC accountability and the sacked-if-you-fail performance discipline that is the private sector's ultimate form of accountability, and ended up with neither: too loose for one, too inflexible for the other.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's innovates to stay ahead

From the Director, Marketing and Public Affairs, at Lloyd's

Sir, If observers of the Lloyd's scene, such as Pennington ("Farewell old names, hello new names", November 22), were not obsessed with infrastructure and capital base issues they might realise that Lloyd's is rather more than "consolidating after years of trauma".

London is still the world's largest insurance market in terms of the aggregate capacity it offers for large and complex risks, and Lloyd's still leads London by underwriting half the capacity and leading two thirds of risks, more in some categories of business.

Much of this success can be attributed to Lloyd's continuing ability to innovate. Lloyd's leads many catastrophe risks and, for example, also writes material damage and liability insurance for nuclear power stations worldwide. There is a thriving Lloyd's market in war and political risks and even strike cover, which is generally unavailable elsewhere.

In retail markets, syndicates are establishing new outlets such as service companies, forming consortia and introducing a wide range of new products. Lloyd's motor syndicates already insure some 4 million cars, one in six on UK roads, and are quick to take up new opportunities, see for example, the recent acquisition of the Dominion Insurance Company's motor and household book by Lloyd's syndicate Equity Red Star.

Much work is in progress to develop and promote Lloyd's products and expertise in new and existing markets. There is no doubt that, whatever Pennington may think, in reality Lloyd's continues to serve well the needs of the world's insurance buyers.

Lloyd's has kept its commercial nerve, retaining both the expertise and reputation for innovation. This is why we have secured a 30 per cent increase in corporate capital this year, most from highly sophisticated US investors who understand the insurance business.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LANE,
Lloyd's of London,
1 Lime Street, EC3.

National Grid windfall could remove pylons

From Mr Ted Williams

Sir, I have read the debate concerning the "windfall" from the sale of National Grid plc with some interest. As National Grid plc is making the profit to justify such a high valuation, surely it is time for the Government or the regulator to consider whether the company is meeting the expectations of all its shareholders. On this point, I would suggest no. The National Grid network is an ugly blot on the landscape.

The Government or the regulator should insist that National Grid plc reduce the number of overhead lines by X per cent per annum. This would have a number of benefits, including an improvement to the environment, job creation, infrastructure enhancement and a sharing of the "windfall" between stakeholders.

Furthermore, if such an order is passed and National Grid responds innovatively, it should use the opportunity to invest in other infrastructure projects on its own or in joint ventures. Such projects could include cables for communications, west coast rail electrification with Railtrack or installation of gas distribution systems. Investments of these types would add further to shareholder value, and the full value of the "windfall" may be retained.

Yours faithfully,
TED WILLIAMS,
Quercus House,
Clay Lane,
Marton, Cheshire.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
0895 258 783				
Ground Amer	156.90	166.00†	+ 1.40	0.27
Ground Equity	229.20	243.80	+ 0.60	1.23
Ground Euro	194.10	205.40	+ 1.90	0.41
Ground Far East	107.50	111.40		2.58
Ground Gilt	72.47	74.71	+ 0.08	5.18
Ground Japan	174.80	185.00†	+ 3.60	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
0203 553 231				
General Acc	519.70	552.90	+ 5.80	2.79
General Inc	458.30	487.60	+ 5.20	2.79
Uk General Acc	350.00	372.40	+ 3.80	2.88
UK Growth Inc	330.60	354.90	+ 2.60	3.88
Higher Inc Acc	658.30	700.40	+ 5.40	4.03
Higher Inc Inc	380.60	404.90	+ 3.20	4.03
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	181.70	192.00	+ 0.30	8.08
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	86.35	93.55	+ 0.07	6.06
4th America	248.60	264.50	+ 3.80	.
Far East	352.90	375.50	+ 1.60	0.05
Europe	250.50	276.10	+ 1.60	0.88
Int Accum	69.25	73.67†	+ 0.80	3.09
Int Fxd Inc Acc	99.17	105.50	+ 0.70	4.92
Int Fxd Inc Inc	72.70	77.35	+ 0.45	4.92
Global Opps	81.29	86.48†	+ 0.91	0.57
Balanced Acc	53.07	56.25	+ 0.45	3.02
Balanced Inc	51.84	55.15	+ 0.45	3.02
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	126.50	134.20†	+ 0.10	7.65
High Inc Equity	157.10	166.00	+ 0.60	4.68
Worldwide Bond	258.20	274.00†	+ 1.10	5.64
Capital Growth				
American Growth	373.40	392.30	+ 2.50	78
Asian Pacific	319.20	339.60	+ 4.60	...
Assets & Earnings	250.50	266.50†	+ 0.10	3.94
Comptv & Energy	110.80	117.90	+ 0.70	.
Euro Capital Inc	127.60	136.50	+ 1.30	71
(Accum Units)	136.30	145.70	+ 1.40	71
General	217.00	230.90	+ 0.20	2.36
Japan	128.70	136.90	+ 2.50	.
Select Trust	137.50	147.10	+ 1.10	1.62
UK Growth Dist	114.00	121.90	+ 0.20	2.87
UK Emerging Cos	128.00	136.90	+ 1.50	.
Income & Growth	368.90	392.40†	+ 0.20	3.19
Sm Cos	86.35	89.52	+ 0.22	3.06
International	114.50	121.80	+ 0.90	95
Dividend & Growth	59.05	62.82	+ 0.16	4.47
Global Gwth & Inc	66.04	70.42	+ 0.11	2.61
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
031 220 0733				
Uk Small Cos	116.12	118.78	+ 4.00	.
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	42.48	44.10	+ 0.40	0.70
Cash	50.12	50.12‡	+ 0.01	4.49
European	105.80	110.60	+ 0.20	.
Exempt	940.70	010.11	+ 2.90	1.83
Exig Income #	47.36	49.64†	+ 0.01	6.05
Far East Emg Eqn	112.30	119.60	+ 0.90	0.52
Fixed Interest #	22.11	23.21	+ 0.01	6.91
Fund Inc Tst	178.10	178.90	+ 0.20	0.94
Japan #	183.80	192.50	+ 3.10	.
Latin American	64.85	68.66	+ 2.20	0.71
Pacific	71.90	75.54	+ 0.86	0.26
Property Shae	61.58	64.65	+ 0.06	5.11
Uk Emerging Cos	60.97	64.00	+ 0.11	1.94
UK Growth	42.74	45.44	+ 0.31	2.58
Abn World Port #	70.52	71.91†	+ 0.49	2.28
Ethical	59.10	62.04†	+ 0.31	2.83
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	48.74	48.74†	+ 0.02	7.70
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
031 549 3232				
British Growth	67.20	71.49†	+ 0.61	2.72
British Income	77.61	82.57†	+ 1.11	3.44
Select Portfolio	82.21	87.48†	+ 0.18	.
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
0452 305 958				
Annty Income	72.63	77.06	+ 0.42	2.63
Income Builder Inc	65.61	70.01†	+ 0.56	3.03
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 0793 510 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	220.10	235.20	+ 1.60	3.32
Capital	388.20	414.90	+ 3.20	1.99
Balanced	868.10	896.40	+ 1.10	2.79
Accumulator	011.99	012.81	+ 10.00	3.17
Income Trusts				
American Income	45.86	49.02	+ 0.33	3.63
High Income	375.30	401.10	+ 3.10	3.85
Equity Income	215.10	229.90	+ 1.60	3.62
High Yield	229.70	245.50	+ 1.30	3.54
Govt Securities	32.84	34.46†	+ 0.05	6.15
International Trusts				
Amer Gwth Sits	135.60	144.90	+ 2.00	0.48
European Growth	33.06	35.28	+ 0.34	0.00
International	157.20	168.00	+ 2.40	0.20
Japan	210.70	224.70†	+ 3.60	0.01
Pacific	398.30	425.70†	+ 7.10	0.01
Spec of America	401.40	427.10†	+ 5.80	0.54
Worldwide Asset Val	46.78	50.00	+ 0.67	0.24
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	495.10	528.20†	+ 3.80	2.41
Gene & Gth	42.05	44.95	+ 0.21	5.16
Smaller Cos	160.30	171.30	+ 0.50	1.30
2nd Smaller Cos	152.10	162.50	+ 0.50	1.50
Recovery	128.70	137.50	+ 0.60	1.91
Mat Res & Cats	148.00	158.30	+ 1.30	0.75
Overseas Earnings	330.50	353.20†	+ 3.20	1.91
Technology	158.40	169.30	+ 4.00	0.01
Uk Special Sits	424.40	453.60	+ 3.00	1.91
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0293 536 911				
Canada Out Pens	93.06	96.68		1.45
Foundin Pers Pens	59.53	61.84		4.00
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	69.61	72.99	+ 0.01	1.92
International	61.88	65.83		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
031 222 4242				
Americas	259.40	279.80		
Bond	109.80	115.60	.	7.20
Brit Smlr Cos	94.66	100.70	.	1.50
Lomr & Gen #	63.94	68.02†	.	5.91
Energy				
Europe	210.70	224.70†	.	0.52
Euro Smlr Cos	95.47	101.90†		0.63
Income Gwth	338.90	362.10†		4.50
Japan	318.10	338.60	.	.
Pacific	100.80	107.20	.	0.74
Uk Smlr Cos	45.99	53.16	.	1.29
Japan Fd	721.30	742.80		
Managed Fd	166.50	177.00		2.96
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
071 488 8673				
Gnl & Overs	268.50	285.70	.	1.29
Gnl Growth	104.70	110.30	.	2.44
Wrldw Opps	179.10	188.60		0.43
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
081 534 5644				
Balanced Trusts				
Stz Inv Fd Inc	329.30	343.90	+ 1.20	3.08
European Bd Inc	88.36	91.46	+ 0.06	7.72
Exempt	70.33	75.02	+ 0.12	4.40
Financial	69.39	74.21†	+ 0.16	3.08
500	423.00	450.40	+ 0.80	3.58
General	261.80	279.80	+ 1.10	2.79
Property	245.30	262.40†		6.31
Trustee	171.50	183.40†	+ 0.70	2.60
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.80	100.80		4.90
Extra Income	111.40	119.10	+ 0.20	4.29
Gilt & Fxd Int	85.93	91.80†	+ 0.07	6.92
Income	562.50	537.10	+ 0.90	4.22
Income Bullion	60.81	64.89	+ 0.13	4.56
Ind Income	59.65	63.46†	+ 0.27	3.70
Growth Trusts - Ut				
Capital	113.20	119.70	+ 0.40	2.70
Leisure	116.50	124.50	+ 0.10	1.55
Recovery	385.10	422.50	+ 1.40	2.82
Smlr Cos Inc	41.24	44.23	+ 0.01	2.07
Special Sits	266.70	285.30	+ 0.80	1.53
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	120.70	128.10†	+ 1.60	0.70
Asst Acc	2405.50	2552.20	+ 9.10	0.00
Asst Inc	151.60	161.30†	+ 1.20	2.32
Euro Gwth Inc	143.70	152.40	+ 1.50	0.65
(Accum Units)	153.70	163.10	+ 1.60	0.65
Japan Sm Cos Inc	180.00	190.60	+ 3.60	.
(Accum Units)	182.10	192.60	+ 3.70	.
Japan Spec Sits	92.58	97.48	+ 1.60	.
New Tech Inc	76.75	81.56	+ 1.01	0.13
Worldwide	163.50	173.60	+ 1.30	0.76
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
081 658 9600				
American Growth	89.52	95.15	+ 1.15	.
Amer Smlr Cos	125.70	131.60	+ 1.10	.
Commodities	53.29	56.99†	+ 0.10	5.70
Eastern	268.10	288.80	+ 4.60	0.10
Europ Income	85.39	90.84	+ 0.38	4.90
European Growth	265.60	299.70	+ 3.30	1.00
Europe	305.80	299.00†	+ 2.50	0.69
German Growth	68.13	73.33	+ 0.92	0.10
Global Bond	61.66	64.94	+ 0.08	6.40
Global Growth	121.20	129.40	+ 1.50	.
Japan Growth	203.30	217.10	+ 3.30	.
Japan Sunrise	176.80	188.30	+ 2.40	.
Korea Trust	81.42	91.06	+ 2.14	.
Portfolio	126.70	135.30	+ 0.60	1.80
(Accum Units)	231.90	246.90	+ 1.20	1.80
UK Growth	80.54	85.52	+ 0.04	1.80
UK Smaller Cos	81.84	87.52	+ 0.04	1.80
Select Managers	71.38	76.45	+ 0.39	1.10
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
071 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	73.93	78.66		
Special Opps Inc	54.00	57.45		
BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD				
071 236 6441				
Special Sits	163.10	175.10	+ 1.80	1.61
Dividend	82.36	87.98	+ 0.30	3.52
Int Gth & Inc	208.20	219.50	+ 0.30	3.51
Uk & Gen	42.74	45.71	+ 0.07	1.93
Fund of Funds	61.30	65.58	+ 0.07	.
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
041 225 6020				
Balanced Growth	100.24	106.07	+ 1.45	1.78
(Accum Units)	112.58	119.14	+ 1.63	1.78
Smaller Cos	96.78	101.39†	+ 0.12	1.33
Higher Yield #	42.85	45.34	+ 0.06	4.93
American Gth Inc	69.26	73.29	+ 0.92	.
European Growth	129.16	136.66	+ 2.08	0.05
(Accum Units)	171.69	180.36	+ 2.13	0.05
Global Bond Inc #	36.09	37.46†	+ 0.07	6.98
Mngd Pnsns Inc	40.37	42.71	+ 0.40	1.63
(Accum Units)	40.94	43.31	+ 0.41	1.63
Inc Stock Opps	111.16	117.63	+ 1.46	0.44
Pacific Gth	126.04	133.37	+ 2.08	.
Formerly LAS				
Uk General #	70.97	75.10†	+ 0.16	3.54
(Accum Units) #	73.72	78.00	+ 0.16	3.54
Japan	64.77	68.54	+ 1.23	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	93.34	95.24†	+ 0.11	7.31
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
071 488 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.52	65.36	+ 0.04	6.30
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
061 837 5060				
Balanced	145.40	154.70†	+ 0.80	1.77
Uk Growth	159.80	169.00	+ 0.50	2.29
Uk Income	126.80	134.90	+ 0.10	4.48
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0707 651 122				
Can Gen Dist	180.40	191.20	+ 2.20	2.01
-do- Income Dist	104.50	110.70	+ 0.70	4.52
(Accum Units)	315.30	334.20	+ 2.10	4.52
Can & Fxd Int	39.45	41.81	+ 0.05	6.51
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
071 236 5685 Enq: 081 236 5685 Dlg: 081 236 5362				
American & Gen	143.40	152.00	+ 0.50	.
European Inc	74.11	78.51	+ 0.50	0.45
Smaller Cos (Unit)	73.33	78.02	+ 0.04	2.06
Growth	403.20	426.90	+ 1.70	2.36
Income & Growth	387.00	411.80	+ 2.90	4.05
(Accum Units)	543.70	578.50	+ 4.20	4.00
Japan & Gen	74.43	78.99	+ 1.89	.
Master Portfolio	139.74	[103.68]†	+[0.00]	1.97
(Accum Units)	[118.57]	[125.26]	+[0.00]	1.97
Special Sits	92.45	98.36	+ 1.21	0.31
Tech Yield	172.44	172.83†	+ [1.00]	4.55
For Capel House see Newton				
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
071 606 0708				
Cautious Portfolio	80.52	85.68	+ 0.55	2.31
American Pension	86.05	91.63†	+ 0.98	1.22

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Portfolio	90.64	96.41	+ 1.23	0.88
Japanese Portfolio	66.58	70.66	+ 1.03	.
Pacific Portfolio	138.72	143.17†	+ 1.21	0.69
UK Inc & Growth	72.89	78.28	+ 0.64	3.56
Utility & Bond	54.49	55.11	+ 0.51	7.67
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
071 588 1815				
Inv Fund	644.05	651.35	.	4.74
Fxd Int Sec	148.35	148.40	.	9.77
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
071 382 5000				
UK General Tst	62.81	66.81	+ 0.51	2.99
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
071 588 1815				
Inc	636.66	643.24	.	4.74
Accum	1296.93	1327.10	.	.
Inc	120.79	120.95	.	9.59
(Accum Units)	185.70	186.17		
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
071 837 7667				
Intl Growth	119.04	129.92†		
UK Income	104.83	113.95†	.	5.263
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
071 407 5999				
Beckman Intl	73.01	77.37		1.56
Beck Bio-Tech	23.65	[3.57]	+ 0.38	.
Accm Ethical Tst	144.69	152.39†		1.06
City Fin Assets	66.30	70.53	.	1.25
City Fin America	79.58	83.77	.	.
City Fin Intl	74.61	78.75	.	0.94
City Fin Japan	165.58	174.72†	.	.
Fstrn Hse Inc	260.42	281.57		1.95
Fstrn Hse Inc	187.05	199.01†		4.15
Beckday Wrld Gth	127.34	135.47	.	0.09
Fstrnet Cap Gth	132.66	141.13†	+ 1.68	.
Fstrnount Intl	140.53	154.24†	+ 1.33	.
City Fin Pifio Inc	51.51	54.80†	+ 0.54	4.38
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
071 711 0771 Admin: 0277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	55.87	59.28	- 0.20	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	52.88	56.56	+ 1.06	.
Atlas Mngd Gwth	34.88	37.31	+ 0.43	0.37
Dragon Growth	67.80	72.51	+ 0.94	0.36
Equity High Inc	78.63	83.86†	+ 0.65	4.06
(Accum Units)	105.99	112.76	+ 0.87	4.06
European Gwth	48.32	51.40	+ 0.46	0.81
Evergreen	27.40	29.31	+ 0.39	.
General Equity	79.64	84.50	+ 0.72	2.66
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	34.19	35.45	+ 0.01	8.41
Japan Growth	52.61	56.27	+ 1.16	.
Pacific Growth	48.19	51.27	+ 0.37	2.73
Prd Sm Cos Inc	28.66	30.81		1.23
(Accum Units)	30.10	32.35	+ 0.01	1.20
Retirement Inc #	34.53	36.52	+ 0.16	6.00
Special Sits	35.96	38.48	+ 0.15	2.06
Uk & Overseas	48.18	49.13	+ 0.46	1.28
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
0834 896 000				
Capital	63.83	68.26	+ 0.44	2.33
Income	57.60	61.80	+ 0.27	4.29
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
091 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	150.00	159.57	+ 0.90	5.62
Fixed & Convertible	38.76	41.23	+ 0.12	7.53
Monthly Inv Plus	47.52	50.55	+ 0.07	8.06
Preference Share	46.15	49.10	+ 0.10	7.47
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	118.51	126.07	+ 0.93	7.39
Managed Fund	65.76	69.32	+ 0.50	3.04
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	37.15	39.52	+ 0.17	1.72
(Accum Units)	42.50	45.21	+ 0.19	1.72
Uk & General	74.38	79.11	+ 0.60	2.80
(Accum Units)	93.07	99.01	+ 1.00	2.80
UK Growth	132.72	141.19	+ 1.34	2.41
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	182.20	193.83	+ 1.57	0.26
Far Eastern Gth	129.01	137.24	+ 1.74	.
Global Bond	75.15	79.86	+ 0.26	6.34
Japan Growth	124.05	131.98	+ 2.44	.
North Amer Gth	155.49	165.32	+ 0.93	.
Oriental Growth	75.09	79.86	+ 0.89	.
Worldwide Growth	62.43	66.41	+ 0.75	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.52	92.52	+ 0.01	5.39
Homeowner Fund	74.37	79.06	+ 0.59	3.01
Guilter Fund	122.55	130.32	+ 0.99	3.01
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
0438 744 840				
Growth Inc	55.79	59.35	+ 0.47	3.10
(Accum Units)	59.66	63.46	+ 0.50	3.10
High Income	32.25	34.30	+ 0.21	4.70
Japan	36.89	39.03	+ 0.84	.
Smaller Cos Inc	29.01	30.84†	+ 0.08	2.60
Smaller Cos	30.72	32.68	+ 0.08	2.60
North American	31.17	33.15	+ 0.41	0.50
European	35.40	37.65	+ 0.29	0.50
CONSISTENT UNT TST MGMT CO LTD				
071 407 5998				
Consistent Ut	29.84	31.99	+ 0.09	3.38
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	134.20	142.80	+ 0.20	2.18
Income	68.50	72.88	+ 0.37	5.07
European	58.68	62.43†	+ 0.53	1.13
Recovery	146.80	156.20	+ 1.00	2.30
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
071 288 9494				
Equity Dist	756.08	768.66†		3.80
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
0277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	67.72	72.04	+ 0.09	1.36
Income #	225.30	239.60	+ 1.80	4.30
(Accum Units) #	554.70	590.10	+ 4.40	4.90
Smaller Cos	146.30	155.60†	+ 0.30	0.62
(Accum Units)	178.80	190.20†	+ 0.40	0.62
Inv Portfolio	75.05	79.84	+ 0.22	1.50
High Inc Port #	89.77	99.98	- 0.55	5.00
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
071 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	[114.64]	[115.01]†	+ [0.38]	.
Japan Small Cos	[112.35]	[112.59]†	+[0.20]	.
Uk Small Cos	[116.91]	[117.66]	+ [0.29]	.
US Small Cos	[115.78]	[115.10]†	+[2.80]	.
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
071 377 8819				
Disc Inc	192.70	202.90†		2.87
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
031 315 2500				
European Growth	259.80	274.60	+ 1.50	1.02
New Asia	208.20	222.10	+ 2.90	0.15
Japan Growth	121.90	129.70	+ 2.20	.
Jap Smlr Co	497.10	528.50	+ 4.60	.
Nth Amer	241.00	255.30	+ 2.30	0.83
Orient Asia Pac Inc	115.00	121.90	+ 0.80	0.37
UK Inc & Gth	202.50	216.00	+ 2.00	3.08
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
0542 577 555				
Uk Balanced Inc	132.70	141.20	+ 0.40	1.90
Uk High Inc Inc	141.00	150.00	+ 0.50	4.80
(Accum Units)	160.60	192.10	+ 0.70	4.80
Uk Pref & Fi Inc	96.09	69.54	+ 0.07	5.77
Emerald Opps	79.95	84.43	+ 0.31	1.11
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 525				
American	114.60	121.70	+ 1.40	1.44
Commodities #	19.85	21.09†	+ 0.13	5.64
Equity Income #	119.90	127.40†	+ 2.30	4.16
Eurofund	43.21	45.84	+ 0.48	0.44
Financial	43.36	46.07	+ 0.07	1.63
Growth & Inc #	222.30	236.10	+ 2.50	3.26
High Dist #	142.80	151.70†	+ 1.30	4.84
International	360.60	404.40	+ 3.40	0.12
Int Cap Inc	90.61	96.73	+ 0.45	3.84
Latin American	39.82	42.31	+ 1.85	.
Pacific	81.78	86.89	+ 1.25	.
Preference Share	32.01	33.79	+ 0.11	7.05
Tokyo	231.60	246.10	+ 4.70	.
Uk Smaller Cos	214.00	227.40	+ 2.20	1.21
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
071 242 0242				
Elcon Trust	200.72	214.48	- 2.03	0.93
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	193.70	206.10	+ 3.60	0.93
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0256 431 480				
European	74.95	79.92	+ 0.75	1.65
Ethical Tst	43.37	45.61	+ 0.05	1.25
Far Eastern	296.91	311.40	+ 5.19	1.97
High Income	134.40	150.56†	+ 1.40	5.74
Intl Growth	116.93	123.08	+ 1.21	1.79
Stertg American	104.50	110.00	+ 1.01	1.53
Pelican	111.64	117.52	+ 0.91	3.23
Smaller Cos	66.19	69.67†	+ 0.25	2.50
Special Sits	83.77	85.18	+ 0.24	1.65
Tst of Inv Trsts	178.29	187.67	+ 0.47	1.95
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 497 5998				
Smaller Cos Inc	193.91	201.99	- 0.09	1.45
Smaller Cos Acc	339.30	353.44	- 0.16	1.45
Recovery	49.49	[51.55]†		1.38
Recovery Acc	50.03	[52.11]†	+ 0.01	1.38
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0392 412 144				
Balanced	106.53	113.33†	+ 0.08	6.14
Capital Growth	77.83	83.46	+ 0.29	.
Fd of Inv Trsts	43.33	46.43	+ 0.14	0.62
High Income #	42.83	45.90	+ 0.01	10.22
Warrant	53.65	58.42	+ 0.84	.
Zero Preference	35.90	38.09†	+ 0.01	.
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	72.84	77.46	+ 0.26	2.58
Family Income Tst	45.88	45.88	+ 0.07	6.02
Family Trust	80.18	85.30	+ 0.10	1.18
United Charities	249.50	265.30		3.19
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callflex. Private Clients: 0800 414 181				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		3.40
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	26.49	26.56†	+ 0.03	7.96
Intl Bond	27.17	28.12	+ 0.12	5.20
Income Funds				
High Income	24.41	25.63†	+ 0.03	5.23
Income Plus	105.60	112.35†	+ 0.30	4.38
Amer Eq Inc	44.48	47.12	+ 0.51	1.36
European Income	30.97	32.82	+ 0.21	1.98
Far East Inc	61.40	65.34†	+ 0.61	2.15
Global Convertible	31.05	33.42†	+ 0.14	3.85
UK Opp Gwth	23.15	24.62	+ 0.18	1.52
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	62.67	66.85	+ 1.01	.
American	237.00	249.70	+ 3.20	.
Amer Spec Sits	108.50	115.80†	+ 1.80	.
Japan Smaller Cos	40.09	42.77	+ 0.65	.
European	156.70	149.90	+ 1.70	.
European Opps	68.14	63.56	+ 0.51	.
Global Plus	73.50	75.01	+ 0.11	1.21
UK Growth	84.86	90.23	+ 0.10	.
Growth & Inc	133.60	142.30	+ 0.90	2.55
Intl PEP	35.15	37.33	+ 0.24	.
Japan Spec Sits	92.78	98.78	+ 1.94	.
Japan	197.20	210.30	+ 3.10	.
Managed Intl	263.90	280.80	+ 3.00	.
Misanthropists	59.51	54.71	+ 0.11	.
Recovery	45.94	48.21	+ 0.17	.
South E Asia	142.00	151.90	+ 2.50	.
Special Sits	482.60	513.20	+ 5.20	.
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	107.53	107.52	+ 0.01	5.40
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 814 2700				
Balanced #	131.40	134.50		1.56
Inc Plnio #	82.26	83.84†	- 0.57	3.95
Gen Pfolio	137.10	139.80†	+ 1.40	0.74
General Opps	116.50	119.00		2.52
Growth Inc	29.55	29.85†	+ 0.22	1.52
Pinoto Portfolio	381.00	389.00		1.52
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq: 071 454 1434 Dlg: 0277 291 010				
Hypo Foreign & Colonial				
European	107.30	113.40	+ 0.60	0.55
Emrg Asian	162.10	173.40	+ 1.70	.
High Income	20.25	22.24†	+ 0.15	10.12
Dlsmc Income	89.97	98.24†	+ 0.64	2.97

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth	103.40	110.60	+ 0.70	1.69
UK Income	100.10	106.70	+ 0.70	4.31
US Smaller Cos	284.10	303.90	+ 5.20	...
FOSTER & BRATHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
071 407 5998				
High Inc Eqty	46.03	48.40†	+ 0.27	3.48
-do- Inv Trst Inc	72.16	75.88	+ 0.11	4.35
Intl Growth	68.51	72.04†		1.28
Investment Trust	95.24	98.68	- 0.15	.
UK Smaller Cos	76.71	80.66	+ 0.08	1.36
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
071 374 4100				
American Growth	51.92	55.46	+ 1.01	.
(Accum Units)	51.92	55.46	+ 1.01	.
Amer Smlr Cos	431.00	460.90†	+ 5.00	.
(Accum Units)	440.30	470.80	+ 5.90	.
Capital Tst	297.70	316.60	+ 0.30	1.61
(Accum Units)	425.10	452.10	+ 0.40	1.61
Cont Smlr Cos	95.

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Shares advance in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	360½	Abbey Nat	434	+ 7½	4.5	14.6
314	203	Allied Irish	270	+ 12	4.7	10.4
2784	1971	Ans New Z	2306		6.1	-
2080	2429½	Bank America	2625	+ 12½		
247	172½	Bank Scotland	210	+ 2	3.5	11.8
646	482	Barclays	617	+ 3	3.8	19.0
318	226½	Bk of Ireland	294	+ 5	4.9	8.5
2512½	2282½	Citicorp	2730½	+ 21½		
285½	203	Clydesdale	228	- 1	4.1	-
1150½	810½	Commercial	1133½	+ 40½	5.1	-
1295½	1056½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1281½	+ 2½	0.4	-
1344½	1209½	Dresdner Bk	1256½	+ 16½	2.4	-
1315½	797½	Espirito Santo	825½	+ 6½	4.7	4.1
98	58½	First Fid Fin	58½		3.2	-
1549½	1152½	Fst Busn Y	1456	+ 28	0.4	-
473	209	Hambros	228	- 3	6.2	14.0
1113	698	HSBC	1028	+ 18	4.2	10.5
1153½	884	HSBC HK	1029½	+ 12½	4.2	10.5
443	409	Ikoma (L)	409		3.4	11.9
893	624	Lloyds	843		5.4	13.5
693	519	Lloyds	576	+ 1½	5.0	11.3
2650½	2073	Mit Bank Bk	2504	+ 7	7.1	-
822	627	Mit West	514	- ½	4.7	9.6
3808	2160	Mitsubishi Bank	2159		3.3	11.6
78	50	Nova Scot	66	+ 2	1.8	18.2
1598	1277½	Royal Bk Scotl	1368	+ 8	4.3	9.7
1574	1050	Schroders	1473	+ 33	1.6	13.5
1458	1043	Schroders N/V	1358	+ 33	1.6	12.5
114	75	Singer & Fried	95		4.5	11.1
1335½	1030	Standard Chart	1240		2.8	9.6
397	252	Standard Ch	295½	- ½	2.8	11.9
1512	868	Warburg Sh	1011		4.8	12.7
2165	8612½	Wells Fargo	9612½	+ 185½		
208	184	Westpac	217	+ 3½	3.5	-
360	281	Wetherl	213		6.8	14.2

BREWERIES

1025	756	Accor Hldgs	954	+ 9		
619	485	Bass	519		5.1	13.1
299	248	Boddington	256	- 1	4.1	13.8
198	168	Burtonwd Brwr	177		3.5	14.9
817	142	Chrgte P 'A'	156		3.2	-
453	342	Fstr Sm 'A's	344	- 2	2.6	14.2
517	368	Grampian Spr	368	+ 2	3.9	21.0
384	292	Greene King	329	+ 12	3.9	14.6
265	205	Hardy Hacn	245		4.4	12.1
170	135	Highlnds	150		3.4	13.5
3773	3125	Holt J	3366		1.8	18.6
240	195	Mansfield	232	+ 2	2.5	14.5
314	255	Matthew Brwpt	283	- 1	2.5	14.7
545	455	Morland	465		2.9	14.0
98	78	Paramount	7		3.6	-
395	308	Regent Inns	308	+ 18	2.2	23.7
16854½	10000	SA Breweries	14585½		3.0	22.3
591	477	Scott & Newc	541	+ 3	2.6	20.5
385	220	Vaux Group	221		5.6	14.0
446	394½	Wolverhampton JD	446	+ 3	1.9	24.2
617	494	Whitbread A	574	+ 3	4.2	19.7
389	283	Whitbread Dt	330	+ 3	4.3	20.0
194	148	Yates Brost	188		2.5	14.8
535	465	Young 'A'	465		4.0	19.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

285	130	Abbey	135	+ 5	4.9	9.8
200	148	Allent	161		4.3	19.1
164	64½	Amec†	67		5.6	38.7
1663	1222	Andrews Sykes	1305	- 2		
462	332	Ashtead	346		1.6	26.8
191	101	Avonside	104		5.3	12.2
41	26	Bailey (Geo) Con	36	+ ½	2.5	21.4
84	18½	Barrow	21			
292	182	Barratt Dev	192	+ 1	4.6	12.6
199	122½	Bcsor Homes	134	+ 1	5.0	10.5
304	178	Bellway	186		4.7	-
97	37	Bellwinton	52			
573	336	Berkeley Grp	347	+ 5	2.6	14.4
1013	688	Bett Brost	731		3.4	15.1
365	210	Bpnt (Henry)	218		3.8	10.7
93	35	Brandon Hire	36		2.1	-
226	166	Br Bldg & Engr	166		6.2	10.0
197½	118	Bryant	124		5.0	13.9
145½	105	Burrell	124		3.3	14.6
52	31	Campbell & Arm	34½			
64	44	Clarke T	49		3.2	41.6
28½	20	Concrete	21			
186	116	Countryside	119		3.9	-
120	70	Crabtree Nicholson	74		2.7	13.7
141	97	Cussins	97	- 1	4.1	11.7
30	17	Edmond Hdgs	18	+ ½	2.1	11.5
473	286	Evt Group	286	- 3	4.8	11.5
69	24	Galliford	27	+ 1	4.8	-
112	87	Gibbins & Dandy	87		4.6	-
1038½	823	Glenrcn (MAY)	1023		2.1	14.2
91	71	Gwyn (Emrys)	86		8.7	55.5
197	121	Hamilton Estnt	175		2.1	16.0
168	136	Hawtin-Stnd	140		2.7	16.1
144	98	Higgs & Hill	98		3.4	-
32	20	Howard Hdgs	22		4.5	20.5
18	8	Jarvis	11			
238	174	Kier	213	+ 1	4.2	13.1
439	304	Lang (J)	329	+ 2	5.0	20.2
164	90½	Lend 6.4% Cv Pf	94½	+ ½	6.5	-
145	115	Lon Chrtrhse	122		4.9	16.9
173	53	Lovell (Y J)	66		2.1	6.5
327	156	Maunders (J)	208	+ 1	3.3	-
321	154	McAlpine (A)	172	+ 1	4.7	25.2
70½	50½	McCarthy & G	69			
185½	84	Mowlem (J)	100		2.5	-
379½	182	Persimmon	280	+ 5	5.5	15.9
21699	1456	Pochin	1750		3.6	21.1
198	126	Rowlnsn	126½		3.8	19.6
116	44½	Ruberoid	48	+ 1	7.8	10.0
61	45	Secure Resc	46			
132	94	Redfrm	104		3.2	10.3
67	36	Sndl-Fire	58		1.6	27.3
365	233	Sheriff Hdgs	304		1.9	15.9
245	195	Simr (J)	216		5.1	22.0
288	195½	Spandex	255		1.2	20.5
257	151	Tay Homes	164		4.6	12.1
183	114½	Taylor Woodrw	130		1.7	31.8
759	538	Tilbury Dougs	538		7.3	43.5
80	38	Town Nsn	56	+ 1	2.0	29.2
49½	29	Try Group	31		3.1	-
139	98	Wimpey(H)	116		4.3	12.6
179	115	Wimpey(new)	117		3.2	12.6
51	37	Wood Hodge	37		7.2	-
229½	132	Wootbury†	138		4.9	12.6
7½	3¾	Wiggins				
208	154	Wilson (C)	161	- 1	3.2	13.4
371	312	Wilson Bowdn	324		3.1	14.5
248	125	Wimpey 6	132	+ 2	5.0	19.7

DISTRIBUTORS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127	105	ABI Lelst	105		4.8	-
300	248	Acatf	299		2.9	16.2
585	253	Acton & Harwyn	585		3.3	7.3
31	21	Alexanders	21		3.0	19.5
175	113	Applevard	113		6.4	19.9
8	3	Arc Br Eng	4½		1.4	56.8
578	455	BSS Group†	514		4.4	18.1
15½	11	Bunzl Pmsct	21		6.8	-
405	249	Bletchley Mk	290		5.0	10.7
40	28	Bngpd 'A'	28		3.7	9.6
370	288	Bronnec	349		4.7	19.4
31	16½	Bridgend Gen	16		1.6	-
99	76	Bd Fstnrs	87		3.2	-
71	49	Brown & Tawse	40			
51	36	Burndene	37		6.7	-
663	345	Cadbury	598		5.4	18.1
69	24½	Cadbury Pbtz	28½		5.2	14.7
179	129	Mang Bronze	157		3.6	10.7
539	381½	Mcnchester	387		4.0	22.6
139	71½	Mngmll	75½	- 1	6.5	12.3
139	101	Mtchll	104		4.8	17.3
131	98	Meteor	131		3.8	14.2
586	486	Meyer	486		4.0	10.0
408	306	Morgan Crtwr	310	+ 2	5.2	15.6
217	176	Morris Ashby	205		3.4	14.6
51	34	Mowlem(J)	34		4.4	17.1
126	51	Newmarsh	51		6.4	11.0
68	45	Newmrsh (L)	45			
28	20	Old Mill 'A'	20		5.5	-
364	277	Oxford Ind	292	- 2	3.8	19.3
341	218	Powerscreen	247	- 1	2.8	10.4
204	134½	Prospect Insct	14		7.5	7.2
198	69	Radford Metal	73			
13	7	Ransomes	8½			
93	70	Record	84		3.4	18.8
281	240½	Renshaw	276		3.6	23.2
188	125	Rensley	165		2.9	20.6
73	57	Richard (Lens)	73		5.9	12.7
104½	79	Richardson Wst	77		5.2	16.9
176	129	Rolls-Royce†	176	+ 2	3.4	41.5
342½	266½	Rotork	332		3.0	31.9
191	38	Rotters Tech	191		8.2	10.0
599	355	RTR Intl	599		3.3	15.3
35	20	Sandvik (Hldg)	35		4.3	13.4
184	145	Scot-Fit	162	+ 1	3.1	18.6
373	291	Lin Service	362		3.7	11.2
185	165	Lochard	165		4.4	12.1
18	14	Matters Grp	14½		2.2	-
5	3	Middleton Gp	3			
278	228	Rodtham	228	+ 4	0.7	30.4
49	40	Rothschild	41		1.8	20.5
1120	1010	RTZ	1110		2.3	18.5
1000	810	Sedgwick	1000		2.5	14.2
1000	810	Sedgwick 'B'	1000		2.5	14.2
1455	1220	Vinch	1455		2.7	15.2
3750½	2735	Beckman 'B'	3594½	+ 56½	1.6	55.3
35½	21	Brown	35½		1.1	31.0
4040½	2732½	Ericsson 'B'	3958½	+ 118½	1.1	31.0
66	56	Easycorp	70		3.6	-
451	343	Eurotherm	430		1.7	-
408	334½	Fairey Group	388	+ 3	2.6	21.1
283	180	Fenner (Jn)	268	+ 3	2.6	15.5
56	14½	Fenwick Tech	41		2.3	8.3
353½	258	GEC†	277	+ 1½	4.9	13.9
197	102	Goldsmith	117	+ 2	2.6	-
197	118	Gresham	118		5.4	13.0
121	84	Hall Cornfld	105		5.7	11.5
385	319	Hawsord App	319		3.7	15.8
800	730	Hepworth	800		3.9	40.7
155	98	Hewden (A)	98		3.9	-
98	67	Hicks	94		8.5	-
56	44	IITA Ind	44		4.5	-
41	29	Jarvis Ind	36	- 1	2.8	16.3
291	210	Marvin-Sh	250		2.1	18.5
268	160	Microvitec	245			17.5
494	185	Mitsi	228	+ 18		
145	108	Morgan Enrv	118	- 1	2.3	-
31	19	Orbit†	21		7.1	-
91	60	Peter Systems	60		7.4	21.7
82	74½	Pilsbry	82		7.3	10.9
2475	1460	Philips Lmp nv	1828½	+ 21½	0.9	8.8
2115	1750	Philips Fr 4%	2110		2.8	-
359	253	Pilkg	345	- 3	1.6	23.9
344	283	Pilkn 'A' Vtg	327	- 2	1.7	22.4
145	76	Plasmec	123		3.3	-
129	98	Prescot'Y	98		3.7	16.3
24	17½	Prichard	24			
250	181	Pzlas	250	- 1	1.5	17.5
257	157	Racal Elect	218	+ 7	2.6	18.0
53	38	Radamec	53		2.3	17.0
317	226	Rexbon	288	- 1	2.4	17.0
98	58	Scantronic	98		3.1	-
69	34	Shearwtrs	69		2.7	22.6
94	61	Sparmks	82		4.8	14.1
77	38	Sthn Elects	77	+ 3	9.9	7.3
18	10	Tele Devels	17			
3225	2360½	TDK	3078½	+ 56½	1.0	-
447	364	Telelink Tech	370	+ 10		
170	77	Telemedia	78		1.6	10.1
101	51	TSR	97		3.6	17.3
1145	1000	Thorn	1000		3.5	13.4
233	133	Thorpe Fw	233		1.7	17.1
43	22	Total Systems	35	- 1		38.4
363	215	Transtnt	251	- 1	1.9	-
364	256	Unisys	256		2.3	37.4
9	6½	Verity A	8		2.2	24.2
483	382	Vidat	384	+ 2	6.0	16.7
80	60	Wallcounty	79			
162	93	Wilcomatic	162	+ 7	2.7	17.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

203	148	Ashwell	156		6.0	15.9
388	199½	Anglogrps	333	- 5	1.3	26.9
82	62	Armourt	62		4.8	10.3
998	773½	Bnsn Hill	970	+ 11	2.3	37.0
491	373	BTR	480	+ 3½	2.4	15.3
578	372	BMT†	442	- 7	5.9	11.6
51	37½	Bibby (Jn)	43	+ ½	5.5	-
342½	197½	Cmrch A	217	+ 2	5.3	10.8
236	63½	Charrtr	78½	- 2	3.6	22.5
265	216½	Cookson	236	+ 1	3.4	21.3
305	217½	Hawsorth	298	+ ½	3.4	16.1
2220	1650	Hanson Cridtd	1420		7.9	16.2
3695	2539	Hutch Whamp	2700		4.8	21.1
710	499½	Jerome Mgm	453½	- 9½	3.3	10.2
36	27½	Jourdan (Tr)	28		2.8	20.8
1769	1345	London	152	+ 3	3.3	41.7
44	16	Parka Charlton	16			
705	513	Powell Duffryn	529		6.2	14.8
164	116½	Repsort	128		7.3	14.5
488	337	Rohmnsort	457	- 1	5.3	22.2
18	9½	Sabre A	12			4.6
1694	1185	Sime Darby¥	1473	+ 3	2.2	17.6
3577	2710	Staveley†	1710	- 1	6.2	17.6
239	155	Soler	158	- 1	7.5	15.0
286	239	TT Group	247	+ 2	2.4	-
2333	2002	Tomkins	2195½	+ 5½	4.2	14.1
324	89	Tricentrol H	274	- 1	1.7	-
448	245	Unidare	295		3.6	15.2
334	246½	Wassall	280	+ 3	1.6	24.0
139½	9	Wolsey	10½	+ ½		
4144	309	Williams Hldg	334	+ 2	5.0	20.0

ELECTRICITY

864½	610½	East Midlands	821	- 5	4.2	34.2
866	566	Eastern Elc	771	+ 6	4.0	16.7
776	554	London Elec	748	+ 1	4.2	11.3
1045	715	Manweb	1000		4.0	13.2
845½	547	Mdlands Elec	798	+ 5	3.9	12.1
529	404½	National Power	489	+ 7	3.4	13.4
1065	599	Northern Elec	1007	+ 7	3.4	9.5
451	369	Nthn Ireland	358	- 2	4.2	9.8
1015	692	Norweb†	1000	+ 4	3.6	11.1
612	446	Powergen	530	+ 1	4.2	11.4
477	337	Hydro-Elec	317	+ 1	4.6	9.9
1035	725	Scottish Power	340	+ 4	4.6	21.1
930	688	Scottpwr	851	+ 14	3.4	12.2
881	580	Seeboard	691	+ 14	3.4	11.4
877	651	Sth Western	789	+ 2	3.7	11.4
837	540	Southern Elec	791	+ 21	2.9	11.4
795	532	Yorkshire Elec	691	+ 4	4.5	13.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

109	68	Acorn Comp	99			
660	478	Advsted	635		1.3	19.5
200	163	Alba	200		3.2	15.5
260	126½	Amstrad	134	- 1	2.3	-
31	24	Arlec	26			
94½	78	Ascot	94		1.3	17.3
391	118	Atlant	134		3.0	10.8
478	325	BICC†	352	+ 8	6.7	22.5
283	238	Bowtex Hunter	244		5.0	-
16	7	Berkeley Sec A	8			
535	403	Black	535		3.4	-
380	280	Bowthorpe	380		3.0	18.7
21½	14½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	19		1.6	11.1
283	208	Cmll Micro	204		3.7	13.0
39½	20	Chrtrhsf	22½	+ ½	0.5	62.7
262	146½	Cray Elect	163	- 1	1.7	19.0
467	413	Cricklwd	451		2.3	19.4
388	268	Dawtn Sc Syst	335	+ 5	0.6	24.6
388	268	Delta	335	+ 5	4.1	19.1
360	499	Domino	347	+ 7	1.8	23.8
78	63	Dowding Mills	72	+ 2	4.4	20.7
1635	1220	Vtech	1455		0.9	27.3
3750½	2930	Electrocm 'B'	3594½	+ 118½	1.1	31.0
86	56	Easycorp	70		3.6	-
451	343	Eurotherm	430		1.7	-
408	334½	Fairey Group	388	+ 3	2.6	21.1
283	180	Fenner (Jn)	268	+ 3	2.6	15.5
56	14½	Fenwick Tech	41		2.3	8.3
353½	258	GEC†	277	+ 1½	4.9	13.9
197	102	Goldsmith	117	+ 2	2.6	-
197	118	Gresham	118		5.4	13.0
121	84	Hall Cornfld	105		5.7	11.5
385	319	Hawsord App	319		3.7	15.8
800	730	Hepworth	800		3.9	40.7
155	98	Hewden (A)	98		3.9	-
98	67	Hicks	94		8.5	-
56	44	IITA Ind	44		4.5	-
41	29	Jarvis Ind	36	- 1	2.8	16.3
291	210	Marvin-Sh	250		2.1	18.5
268	160	Microvitec	245			17.5
494	185	Mitsi	228	+ 18		
145	108	Morgan Enrv	118	- 1	2.3	-
31	19	Orbit†	21		7.1	-
91	60	Peter Systems	60		7.4	21.7
82	74½	Pilsbry	82		7.3	10.9
2475	1460	Philips Lmp nv	1828½	+ 21½	0.9	8.8
2115	1750	Philips Fr 4%	2110		2.8	-
359	253	Pilkg	345	- 3	1.6	23.9
344	283	Pilkn 'A' Vtg	327	- 2	1.7	22.4
145	76	Plasmec	123		3.3	-
129	98	Prescot'Y	98		3.7	16.3
24	17½	Prichard	24			
250	181	Pzlas	250	- 1	1.5	17.5
257	157	Racal Elect	218	+ 7	2.6	18.0
53	38	Radamec	53		2.3	17.0
317	226	Rexbon	288	- 1	2.4	17.0
98	58	Scantronic	98		3.1	-
69	34	Shearwtrs	69		2.7	22.6
94	61	Sparmks	82		4.8	14.1
77	38	Sthn Elects	77	+ 3	9.9	7.3
18	10	Tele Devels	17			
3225	2360½	TDK	3078½	+ 56½	1.0	-
447	364	Telelink Tech	370	+ 10		
170	77	Telemedia	78		1.6	10.1
101	51	TSR	97		3.6	17.3
1145	1000	Thorn	1000		3.5	13.4
233	133	Thorpe Fw	233		1.7	17.1
43	22	Total Systems	35	- 1		38.4
363	215	Transtnt	251	- 1	1.9	-
364	256	Unisys	256		2.3	37.4
9	6½	Verity A	8		2.2	24.2
483	382	Vidat	384	+ 2	6.0	16.7
80	60	Wallcounty	79			
162	93	Wilcomatic	162	+ 7	2.7	17.8

BUSINESS SERVICES

9½	1¼	Anglo Utd	2			
110	73	Apt Hldn	85		3.2	-
165	107	Ashworth	117		5.3	-
11	9	Bailey (Ch)	9½			
49	30	Black Arrow	47		8.2	7.5
124	78	Br Bloodstock	77			68.1
13	5¼	Cded Gp	9½			16.0
10½	7	Chapman	9½		1.9	-
157	109	Cordiff	146		7.1	8.9
287	186	Fkdyn	217		1.2	18.5
98	68	Hambros	94		4.8	34.2
7½	3½	Higgins	7			
298	154	Huntleigh	298		2.3	18.3
571	312	Wilson Bowdn	324		3.1	14.5
248	125	Wimpey 6	132	+ 2	5.0	19.7

CHEMICALS

150½	115½	Allied Colloids	136	+ 3	2.3	18.3
788	588	Amber Ind	700		2.1	19.8
2140½	2105½	BASF Dfd	2127½	+ 22½	3.7	-
767	627	BOC†	717	+ 5	4.3	27.1
313	281	BTP†	298	+ 5	4.5	18.3
2196½	1675	Bpet CASO.	2147½	+ 35½	3.5	-
131	96	Brnd Chms	108	+ 1	4.1	17.1
368	219	Br Vit	226	+ 1		
29	18	Cambridge Isc	19			
1858	1157	Cmsing (W)	1497		5.0	31.0
1103	757	Crmtshaft	861	+ 14	4.1	31.4
368	337	Croda	365		2.8	18.5
143	95	Dcsltn	132	- 1	4.4	13.3
68½	39½	Eurn Colornt	59½		3.7	15.8
144	110	Gibbons	122		4.7	11.0
133	108	Hickson	122	+ 6	8.2	10.9
213½	169½	Hoskins	213½	+100	4.7	-
360	153½	Hunting Chem	203		2.2	16.6
1000	727	ICI	773	+ 9	4.4	12.4
191½	108	Inbrs	116	+ 1½	4.7	11.0
843	575	Laporte	710	+ 11	3.7	18.0
36	16	MTM	16		3.8	-
426	290	Manbrs	290		4.8	14.2
137	100	McLeod Russel	113		6.0	-
81	61	Mercntlt	66	- 2	3.0	20.7
675½	352½	Nmbrsn	465	+ 3½	4.4	20.7
349	266	Porvair	288		3.5	15.6
272	195	Scapa	192		3.9	13.6
98	29	Sinclair Spak	32		2.8	18.9
852	656	Tatnds Chms	773	+ 16	3.9	14.2
488	355	Wardle Storgr	336	- 1	6.4	18.7
335	191	Wellington Hdg	191		3.4	16.8
853	578	Wolseley R	738		3.0	18.5
1000	745	Yorks Chem	745	+ 1	2.9	15.4
388	256	Yule Cats	279		2.9	21.2

ENGINEERING

185	119	AIM	158		3.9	44.8
138	54	APV	64	- 2	10.2	-
230	157	ASW	215	- 1	3.2	-
129	29½	Aaa Hamble	30	- 1	15.6	3.9
21½	14	Aerospace Eng	16½		3.6	45.1
73	27½	Alvis	41		3.1	-
173	143	Ash & Lacy	143		5.6	14.8
553	410	Allen Gorly	553		4.0	18.4
151	84	Appleby Metal	121		1.5	14.8
51	26½	BM Gp	46	+ ½		
256	206	Babcock	236½	+ ½		21.1
178	125	Bamfrd	174		3.4	10.8
78	58	Barlow Int	78		3.8	20.7
1247	958	Bellhvn	1165	+ 18	2.7	16.8
5118½	5450½	Bulmer (HP)	7439½	+ 90½	2.9	15.0
388	295½	Bnd Bearings	327		5.8	26.7
49	33	Brss Tpng	36		5.6	16.7
133	99	Yorkshire Food	104		3.8	12.3

HEALTHCARE

544	325	AAH†	395		6.7	11.8
1191	845	Amersham	967		2.4	17.7
81	49	Amgen	57			
297	206	Assc Nursg	208		1.4	12.1
383	243	Bespak	276		4.6	14.3
10	5	Bee Uk	5			
115	80	Care	77			
151	88	Chemidstrys	97			
47	30	Cortecs	38			
297	252	Community H	240		4.1	13.9
44	29	CrossCare	29		3.1	-
148	96	Dentsply Int	142		1.4	12.1
110	82	Fermeris Group†	103		3.3	-
171	134	Goldsborough	153		1.6	-
15½	9¾	Gnentrace	10		4.2	13.9
165	39	Monsan

INFOTECH

Hold on to your mobile

The most fashionable Christmas gift this year is the mobile phone. Matthew May seeks the networks' advice on how to keep it for longer than a phone call



More than 15,000 mobile phones are stolen each month — make sure your phone is well insured

If you are one of an estimated three-quarters of a million people who have bought or been given a mobile phone this Christmas, then beware. You could also become one of 1995's first victims of crime.

The use of mobile phones in Britain is soaring — more than three million will be in use after the boost from the festive season. However, the theft of this year's most fashionable item is also increasing — at about 15,000 a month. If the trend continues at that level, if you use a mobile phone for ten years there is a more than even chance that it will be stolen.

There are obvious precautions to take — such as putting a phone out of sight when you leave it in a car. In some areas, the petrol station has now become a popular haunt for thieves. They bank on the fact that at least a few owners will leave their phones in view when they go to pay their fuel bill.

> 'The problem of mobile phone theft has now become rife'

"The problem of mobile phone theft has become rife in this area," said PC Jim Pullan, of the Greater Manchester Police, at the launch of a scheme to put warning stickers on petrol pumps in Salford. "In one day alone, eight vehicles were attacked at just one petrol station."

But even when using a mobile phone, users may not be safe. There have been several cases of people having their car windows broken and phones snatched while they were being used in traffic jams or while users were walking along the street.

Indeed, the recommendations on using a mobile phone safely could take some of the festive shine off the new acquisition. "Do not be overt when using a mobile phone in public. Stand in a doorway facing the street so that you can see anyone suspicious approaching," is the advice from the Orange mobile phone network. "If you use your phone in public, take the same kind of precautions as you would when you take money out of a cash machine."

More obviously, the company recommends that you do not leave your mobile phone in view on a wine bar table or unattended in a jacket pocket, briefcase or handbag.

If all that fails, make sure you are well insured. The way mobile phones are sold means that their replacement value can be far higher than the purchase price. Monthly subscription charges and the high price of calls made from mobile phones are often used to subsidise the cost of the phone itself.

The real cost of replacing a £50 phone could be several hundred pounds, and you cannot just nip out and buy another cheap one because you may well be locked into the rest of a minimum one-year contract for your mobile network — and this often has an additional three-month notice period. This cannot be broken even if your phone is lost or stolen. Getting another subsidised phone is possible only if you sign another contract for another line.

The advice is not to rely on household insurance even where it includes use of items outside the home. Check the feasibility of any potential claim very carefully.

New technology may ease the problem. The latest networks use digital phones which, their operators say, can be made virtually impossible to use fraudulently once the network has been told that your phone has been stolen.

The rise in the theft of mobile phones has been on the back of analogue phones where it has been technically relatively simple to reconnect them onto a network under another name.

This fact has given Orange — a network which uses only digital phones — the confidence to include a year's insurance when customers sign up. It gives the promise that a replacement phone will be provided within 24 hours of a theft being reported. Its success, however, depends on thieves realising that a digital mobile phone is of far less use to them than an analogue.

If the worst happens and your mobile phone is stolen, then notify your network urgently because you may be liable for any calls made by the thief until you do so. You will also need a crime reference number from the police if you are claiming on an insurance policy.

ONLINE

Have you heard the one about?

NOW THAT Intel has agreed to replace the millions of Pentium computer chips that make mistakes in some mathematical calculations, the company must be hoping the jokes will eventually stop.

Question: How many Pentium designers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Answer: 1.999042274017, but that's close enough for non-technical people.

And how do you use a Pentium machine so that you get the correct calculations? Steady your hands against it so you don't shake your slide rule.

House trained

IAN TAYLOR, the technology minister, is going online through the Internet. He told a Commons debate on the information superhighway: "I believe that I am the first minister to be on the Internet.

"The E-mail address is *taylor.mintec. demon.co.uk* and I will be very happy to receive messages — positive, I hope — at that address.

"I have downloaded the Government's command paper on the information superhighway direct to the mailing address of the American Vice-President, Al Gore. What he does with it is another matter," Mr Taylor says.

In touch

ONE OF the world's best-selling sex manuals, *The Joy of Sex*, is to go interactive when it is published on CD-Rom next month.

The £40 disc contains more than 200 illustrations, plus three-and-a-half hours of audio and 30 minutes of video sequences.

It will carry an 18 classification. When the disc is used for the first time, the viewer will have to tap in a four-figure PIN number. When used again, the date and time it was last used will always appear.

Baggage check

NEXT summer, the Federal Aviation Administration is to field-test a computerised airport explosives-detection system to find bombs hidden in airline baggage.

The devices resemble X-ray machines now used to check passengers' carry-on baggage. But instead of producing a shadow graph, the tomography system takes multiple views to create cross-sectional images. A computer then reconstructs the "slices" to determine the density of objects.

On the move

SHARP Electronics is to start selling a new electronic gadget which allows users to create graphics, take notes on an electronic pad and send faxes while sitting in the back of a taxi.

Sharp says the hand-held device, which is expected to cost about £350 when it goes on sale in America in February, is designed for business travellers who want a pocket-size computer which allows them to send messages and to jot down important information when they are travelling.



More and more

THE number of computer users with access to the Internet network will grow from an estimated 25 million to more than 200 million by the year 2000, according to Input, a Californian hi-tech research agency.

Fresh ideas

TIME Warner is testing America's first interactive TV system, which is completely run by computers, to see how often people will use it and what they will pay for it. The system is being set up in 4,000 homes in Orlando and provides electronic shopping, films and other programs on demand. It offers 35 films, 13 games and eight retailers who offer 300 products.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matt__times@delphi.com

As anxiety about privacy grows, newspaper editors are discussing how to tackle the problem of 'jigsaw ID'

CD-Roms deepen the press identity crisis

Getting your name in the papers may confer only a moment of fame before obscurity reclaims you but, thanks to electronic newspaper archives, your privacy is gone for good. The CD-Roms and online networks now available contain back issues of newspapers and magazines which make it easier to track down the names, addresses and biographical details of anyone in the news.

Before the tabloid press and Camelot, the lottery syndicate, began their striptease act with the identity of the Blackburn winner, the news industry was already concerned with the problem known as "jigsaw ID".

That means the accidental identification of vulnerable people, especially crime victims, that can occur when the papers each choose different details to publish or withhold. The result can be that individuals can be fully identified by cross-referencing publications.

To obtain a jigsaw ID from printed material, an investigator would have to read many newspapers and magazines carefully and promptly. But with today's CD-Roms and online services it will become increasingly possible to do jigsaw ID as a fishing expedition, for fun, profit or malice.

All mentions of a particular person can be summoned up in seconds. By collating stories from the past few years on, say, a privacy-conscious tycoon, and expanding the search depending on what emerges, it may be easy to procure names, addresses and relationships.

Typically, a researcher might find out that a subject had a celebrity neighbour from a social page story — it is hardly uncommon for rich people to have rich and famous neighbours — but because the paper wanted to protect the subject's privacy, no location was published. The researcher might then find a story about the neighbour's role in some "Not In My Back Yard" protest in a different newspaper from a different year, and so begin to home in on the original subject's address.

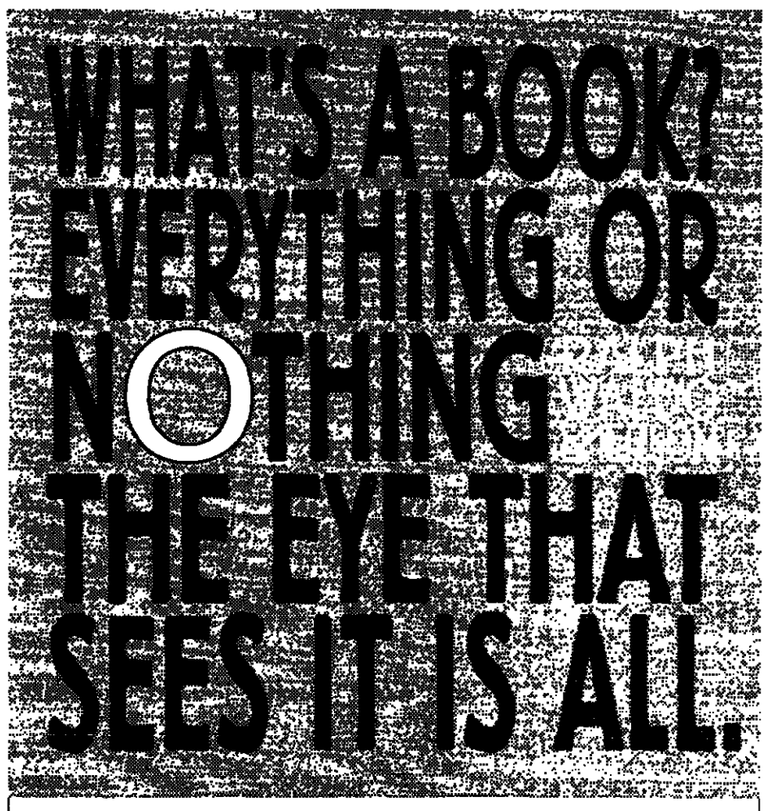
This year, the Guild of Newspaper Editors has been working on a plan for the reporting of criminal sex cases. The Guild's intention is that all newspapers and broadcasters will report the same, restricted set of details about the victims, the defendants, and any family members involved, uniformly omitting the last piece of the jigsaw. Lottery winners and other reluctant celebrities enjoy no such protection, and it could be difficult to give them that protection without nullifying the press's power of scrutiny over rotters.

Anxiety about personal privacy is demonstrably growing. A quarter of phone subscribers have chosen to go ex-directory. The Institute of Directors has asked the Government to rescind the law that obliges company directors to give their home addresses on the public records maintained by Companies House. Political activism against businesses has recently sharpened the unease. Yet loss of privacy due to news archives has hardly been considered yet.

Information technology is gradually developing the means to mechanise the search for exploitable information within masses of text such as news. The first useful products to emerge are "information filters", programs which scan through newsfeeds to find stories likely to be of urgent interest to the user. Crude though they are at present, their ability to reduce English to facts and formulae will grow, until they can automatically find legacies, libels, marketing opportunities, and any results of interest to a commercial operator.

Electronic archives can rapidly fetch up the spent convictions and regretted remarks of anyone who has been in the news. In the future, the past will be harder to escape.

NIGEL BURKE

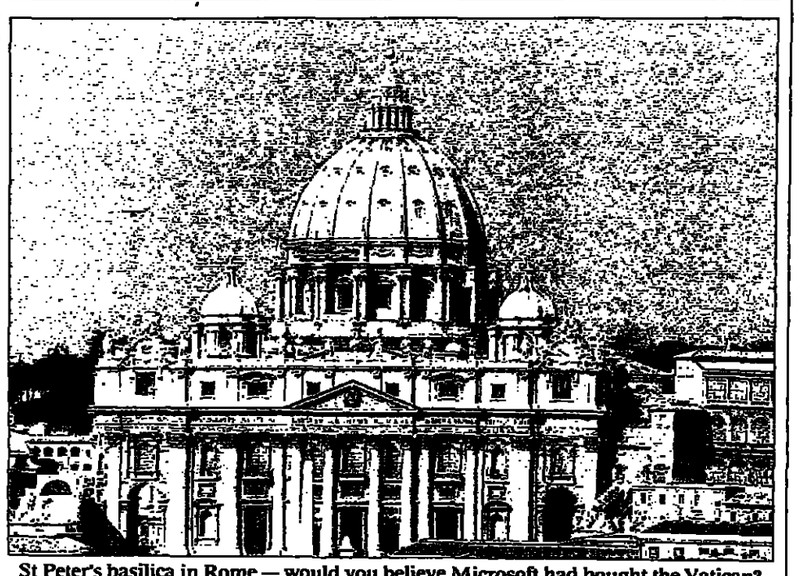


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THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT



St Peter's basilica in Rome — would you believe Microsoft had bought the Vatican?

Microsoft and the Christmas Papal hoax

Protests over Internet report of Vatican deal

Microsoft is to buy the Roman Catholic Church. Well, hardly. But amazingly what was clearly a piece of pre-Christmas hoaxing resulted in so many angry telephone calls and electronic mail messages to the giant software company that it felt it necessary to issue a serious statement of denial.

An unknown prankster created a fake dispatch claiming to be from the Associated Press news agency and circulated it on the Internet global computer network. The story read: "In a joint press conference at St Peter's Square this morning, Microsoft and the Vatican announced that the software giant will aquire the Roman Catholic Church in exchange for an unspecified number of shares of Microsoft common stock. If the deal goes through it will be the first time a computer software company has acquired a major world religion."

Under the terms of the supposed deal, Microsoft would get exclusive electronic rights to the Bible while Pope John Paul II would become the senior vice-president of the combined company's new Religious Software Division.

The fake story also included a promise from Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, that he would "make the sacraments available online for the first time and revive the popular pre-Counter Reformation practice of selling indulgences".

Microsoft's long-term strategy, it said, is to develop "a single core religion to be offered with a choice of interfaces according to the religion desired".

To most cybernauts it is no revelation that the information superhighway can just as easily carry nonsense as useful information. But as a statement from Microsoft had to point out for the truly gullible: "The story has no truth and was not generated by the company."

MATTHEW MAY

THE TIMES

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POP page 26
Caitlin Moran replays the recorded highlights of the best year ever (or at least since 1993)

ARTS

POP page 27
Light-entertainment with teeth: Michael Ball smiles for Britain at the Hammersmith Apollo



THEATRE: Two fine plays reach the big screen; an updated farce opens in Manchester; and other reviews

Money in their madness

Film versions of stage plays have not always been successful, says **Matt Wolf**. But the new *Madness of King George* is a triumph for its British cast and director



Nigel Hawthorne: accomplishes the difficult transition from stage to screen as the mad George III in Nicholas Hytner's new film, which opens in America next week

Hollywood's love affair with the theatre is as old as the cinema itself. Indeed, the history of the Academy Awards is rich with Best Picture victors adapted from plays, from *You Can't Take It With You* and *Hamlet* in the Oscars' early years through to *Amadeus* and *Driving Miss Daisy* more recently.

But for every *Man For All Seasons*, say, there is an *Equus* or *'night, Mother*: two films of distinguished plays that went quickly to the video shelf. What, then, will be the fate of two play-adaptations opening in America this Christmas — both of them acclaimed in Britain when they were seen on stage?

> "Bennett insisted that Hollywood retain the original star and director"

Opening on Christmas Day is Roman Polanski's film of *Death and the Maiden*, the Olivier award-winning play by Ariel Dorfman about a torture victim unexpectedly reunited with her torturer. Then next Wednesday sees the American premiere of *The Madness of King George*. Based on Alan Bennett's play, *The Madness of George III*, the film comes to the screen produced by Samuel Goldwyn, the American company that had a sizeable success in the late Eighties with Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V*.

At first glance, neither play would seem to be obvious screen material. Bennett's 1991 text addresses a topic — the sudden illness of George III from a disease posthumously diagnosed as porphyria — of dubious international appeal, even if George III was the monarch who, after all, made America possible.

Death and the Maiden, in turn, was a highly-charged stage event in which impressive casting papered over some dubious dramaturgy. But with Sigourney Weaver as the vengeful screen Paulina, did not the choice of star signal what the film was in danger of becoming — an arthouse *Alien*, with Dorfman's genuine political concerns subordinated to the demands of making a movie potboiler?

As it happens, Weaver is the principle problem with *Death and the Maiden*. Not for the first time, market forces have prevailed over good sense on screen. Judy Davis, the actress considered early on for the part — and a performer every bit the match of Weaver's formidable co-stars, Ben Kingsley and Stuart Wilson — was deemed commercially unsuitable.

Is the film the play on screen? Yes, and not always for the best. "The only changes made were to deepen the material," Dorfman said by telephone from his home in North Carolina — "to make it more filmic, but not more commercial; this is not a blander version of the play."

Indeed it is not. If anything, Paulina's catalogue of past abuse has been amplified on screen, thereby making a viewer feel even more queasily voyeuristic than one felt at the play. And while Dorfman and co-writer, Rafael Yglesias (*Fearless*), spare us flashbacks of the atrocities (such embellishments, Dorfman said, were never considered) they retained the various jolts of the play, with Paulina once again stuffing her underwear into the mouth of the rain-drenched Dr Miranda (Kingsley), newly-arrived at her beachfront house.

The refusal to open the play up — this must be the most housebound adaptation of a play since *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* — preserves the claustrophobia of the original. But it also contributes to a somewhat airless, artificial feel compounded by the neutralised accents of the three actors who never once sound Latin American. In the end, *Death and the Maiden* seems to be happening in limbo, suspended between a direct transcription of the play and a fully imagined rethinking of it.

The Madness of King George, by contrast, is transformed in ways that go way beyond the new title (*George III* was dropped, lest American filmgoers think they were attending a second sequel to a horror film called *The Madness of George*). "The film turned out so much better than we ever could have thought," Bennett told me earlier this week, adding with a chuckle, "I read the stage script now and think this is so wordy."

Did the title change bother him? "They were slightly shamefaced about it," Bennett says of his producers, "but I didn't mind. I think if they had wanted to call it *Mad George*, then I would have demurred."

Still, the playwright deserves primary credit for the success of the film. Whereas many dramatists abandon hope once Hollywood beckons, Bennett stood firm, insisting that Goldwyn retain original director Nicholas Hytner and star Nigel Hawthorne in any film.

The result lets Hawthorne recreate his bravura performance, a feat not always so well accomplished by stage veterans. (Many a showy theatre performance looks hammy on celluloid.) No less important, it bolsters the supporting players so that they are Hawthorne's equals — as written and as acted — and not just witnesses to a star turn. There is a real thrill in watching the likes of Ian Holm, Rupert Everett and Helen Mirren revel in the delicious idiosyncrasies of their roles.

The four years since the play was written have provided an unexpected parallel in the misfortunes of the House of Windsor, which are implicitly evoked at the film's end. "It seemed to have more contemporary echoes the more we looked at it," says Bennett, "and in ways that were not to do with gossip."

For now, though, the gossip has less to do with royals and more to do with the unstoppable international march of a set of careers all of which will be enhanced by *The Madness of King George*. Hytner, a contender to succeed Richard Eyre at the Royal National Theatre but a cinema unknown, may well be the one to benefit most. His brilliant treatment of a seemingly esoteric "history lesson" already has American critics reaching for superlatives.

Only if you like to samba

Viva O Carnaval
Lilian Baylis



MARILYN KINGWILL

At least the show provides employment for a chirpy and lissom cast: *Viva O Carnaval* at the Lilian Baylis

Rio in the Fifties, where the girls are chirpy and curl the lip at rivals, and where the lads are lithe and lissom: that is where Simon James Collier and Omar F. Okai have set their energetic but insubstantial musical.

Okai is credited as director, choreographer, writer, lyricist and composer; Collier only gets to be writer, lyricist, composer and producer, but evidently the show is their precious baby. If two chaps want to celebrate a love for Latin-American music in this fashion, and thereby give employment to a chirpy, lissom cast, they commit no sin. But does the celebration have to be wrapped in such a boring, feeble story?

The cast of bar-girls, barflies and visiting New Yorkers come on in carnival costumes at the end, but The Okai Collier Company Ltd clearly lacks the resources necessary to make this scene remotely resemble what actually happens on the Rio streets. It certainly does not meet the expectations that have been aroused by the title.

The bare-waisted younger males get to wear short gold boleros, and the girls are in frilly frocks that trail on the ground behind while hardly reaching to the thigh in front. "Welcome to Brazil!" they cry, dancing to the beat of the samba. One, two, three, four, one, two and three, four.

But the plot provides no reason for the show to end this way. A show's got to end, think Okai and Collier, with a big production number, so let's give it this one. We're in Rio, after all, and if the kids make a lot of noise and move around the stage, people in the audience may forget our stupid story. I doubt it.

Young Scott Peterson (Scott Sherrin) flies in from New York, where his old man is big in the garment business, with instructions to buy the failing clothing factory owned by a former friend. Scott bumps, literally, into the friend's daughter and (guess what?) they fall in love. He daren't tell Marianne his reason for being there, but nasty, scheming Dorothea Sanchez, who also wants the factory, discovers his secret and interrupts the course of true love.

Since Dorothea (Maria Ventura), like everyone else, declares her intentions in full voice in a crowded bar, her wicked plan comes to naught. Pausing only to puff cigarette smoke into the face of her adversary, she stalks off the stage, hissed by the audience, who can recognise a stage-villainess even without a green follow-spot.

Marianne is compared favourably to Carmen Miranda, which Michele De Casanove manifestly is not. Veronica Hart delivers one of the show's better numbers with creditable vivacity, and a blues number is poignantly sung by an actress whom I am unable to identify from the programme.

The fact that the characterisation is fragile, the dialogue basic and the plot as old as the Andes might not have mattered if the songs and their lyrics brought some reward. But the rhythms of salsa, samba and mamba are far from word-friendly, and the inefficient miking only makes matters worse.

JEREMY KINGSTON

She's not even a close relative

Charley's Aunt
Royal Exchange, Manchester



Dragged into the present: Michael Sheen as Fancourt Babberly and Hermione Norris as Amy Spettigue

Brandon Thomas's dear old rib-tickler regularly turns up at this time of year, but seldom in quite so peculiar a form. Is that because the drag role is played by Michael Sheen, who was Ninagawa's Peer Gynt last spring and remains the year's most exciting acting discovery? I fear not. It is rather because the director is Emil Wolk, a veteran of the People Show and the Pip Simmonds Theatre Group. The influences he brings to late-Victorian drollery are British performance art and, as he adds in the programme, vaudeville and Buster Keaton farce.

"So this is where you think and study and do all your work?" one of the two lovelorn heroines asks her Oxford swain: and, liar that he is, he agrees. Actually, his college rooms are a sort of gymnasium, in which blokes with lacquered hair, blackened eyebrows and rouged cheeks slide along tables and tumble acrobatically to the floor. In other people's houses they go even further, sprawling and spiralling and doing somersaults in the air. The mix would be odder if Hamlet were played by a tightrope walker, but it seems a close-run thing.

Maybe *Charley's Aunt* needs a rethink. But I had better come clean and admit to preferring a staging that brought out the feel of a period where undergraduates are saying things like "You're a brick", and despatching their men to pawn gold watches in order to stock up on champagne to a production like this, which seems to me to mistrust text and characters alike. Why, there is even a gorilla, who rampages about rifling women's handbags in the interval and joins in a chase in Act II.

Adding loads of gratuitous comic business — gilding the silly, so to speak — invariably lessens rather than increases laughter. Here, it also detracts from the dramatic tension, such as it is. Myself, I cared even less than usual if Fancourt Babberley's attempts to pass himself off as a rich widow from Brazil would dupe the miserly Spettigue and thus solve the romantic problems of his wards and their wooers. I was too busy observing Simon Egerton's college scout inexplicably transform himself from a woman with a shopping cart to an Indian, a gypsy fiddler, a soldier in armour, a derelict fop, a siren with long auburn hair, and, at the end, a Liberace look-alike with a Gary Glitter clone in his train.

There are jokes involving braces, bombs, striptease, karate, Oldham, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and a gun used to light cigarettes. A reference to moonlight cannot pass without the stage dimming, or one to starlight without tiny lights flashing above the audience. There were those in the audience clearly grateful for such comic munificence; but, again, I could not help thinking of what we were missing.

What we were mainly missing was a performance of Fancourt Babberley at least as complete as the one Griff Rhys Jones gave a few years back. There are signs that Sheen is capable of this. He flounces about in his funereal frock. He is quite funny when trying to keep the smoke from a surreptitious cigar safely hidden in his mouth. But how can he begin to exhaust the possible conflicts of male and female when at any moment he may have to launch into some silent-movie routine?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Sensitive panto? It can happen

Cinderella — The Play
Contact, Manchester

SCOTLAND'S leading children's dramatist Stuart Paterson carefully subtitles his *Cinderella* as *"The Play"*. Even so, his version embraces some stalwartly boisterous panto business. The Ugly Sisters kitted out in perfectly horrid 1950s frocks, at least in this production, line up with Cinderella's stepmother by the footlights. Here they indulge, as baddies will, in bouts of "Oh yes she does/ Oh no she doesn't" with the more argumentative members of the audience.

At their best these theatrical traditions rouse the British to wild enthusiasm. In Manchester, the smaller spectators were up on their feet and answering back: dozens of them practically tipping into the rows in front.

But this production by Benjamin Twist, the Contact's new artistic director, does involve some less enjoyable traits typical of pantotime. Though the show improves greatly as it goes along, there is some shouty acting. If Cinderella and the Prince do get married their children should be instantly earmuffed.

Robert Pickavance is weak casting as Cinderella's supposedly military father, though better as the Prince's Papa, the sweet yet satirically decrepit King with dipped knees and the coat of a Chelsea Pensioner. Spasmodically deep-toned Anna Savva has witchy qualities as the stepmother, but her broad comedy is wobbly. Her voice also has a rough quality which snags against her other role as the gentle fairy godmother.

The set, framed by receding grey arches, is both pretty and artistically serious. By contrast there's a terrific rumpus as the whole cast, in catering uniforms, turn the kitchen saucepans into a steel band under the whistle of the cuddly chef Sergeant Puff.

Paterson's real strength is in the way he reaches beyond stock pantomime. He reintroduces not just an undistracted storyline, but elements from the folktale. His reworking also illuminates subtextual significance.

The fine Prince turns out to be arrogant and attempts to force Cinderella to go further than she wishes, dancing beyond midnight. Thus Cinderella (an increasingly sensitive Naomi Radcliffe) realises the poor kitchen boy from up North (Matthew Dunster, really the star of the show) is far more adorable, and they run away to co-habit. This is all far too subtle and humorous, in practice, to be called politically correct. Paterson teaches moral lessons, against snobbery and for freedom, with genuine warmth, and scenes of emotional intensity take one potently by surprise.

KATE BASSETT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **THE BOAT PLAYS**. Sumptuously staged moralities by Gil Vicente, 16th-century Portugese playwright, the newly dead board vessels bound for Hell, Purgatory or (for a few) Heaven.
Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. No perf Dec 25-Jan 3.

■ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**: John Mortimer's adaptation, Ian Judge's direction and Clive Francis's Scrooge make this a cosy evening, well removed from the moral fervour of Dickens.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight-Dec 29, 7.15pm; mats Dec 22 and 27. Again from Jan 4. ◪

◪ **FLORA THE RED MENACE**: Attractive staging of Kander & Ebb's first musical, a surprising story of an all-American girl toying with communism. Lucy Tregear in the role created by Liza Minelli.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Sat, 4pm and Thurs from Dec 29, 2.30pm. Dec 24 mat only; no perf Dec 26-27 or Jan 2. Until Feb 4. ◪

□ **HAMLET**: Peter Hall directs Stephen Dillane's darkly humorous, self-detesting Prince, backed by excellent playing from Michael Pennington, Donald Sinden and Alan Dobie.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm. Dec 24, 2pm only. ◪

■ **OLIVER!**: Lavish revival of Bart's merry musical. Low on social comment, big on tunes. Jonathan Pryce as Fagin.
Palladium, Argyll St, W1 (071-494 5020). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. No perf Dec 24, 26. Extra mats Dec 23, 29, 2.30pm. ◪

□ **RAISING FIRES**: Black Essex girl suspected of arson in the days of witch burning. Strong sense of period in Jenny McLeod's award-winning play about, greed, gossip and hypocrisy.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). (081-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm. No performances Dec 24-Jan 2; until Jan 14.

□ **THE RIVALS**: Richard Cottrell's likeable production from Chichester, with *Patricia Routledge's splendidly wild Mrs* Malaprop like a lace-encrusted windmill.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3pm. Until Jan 14.

□ **SKETCHES BY BOZ**. Six of Dickens's early character sketches, *neatly dramatised and richly exploited* for their comedy and melodrama.
BAC Arts Cafe, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 6.30pm. No performances Dec 24-27 or Jan 2.

□ **SLAVS!**. Tony Kushner's densely packed serious comedy about the collapse of Communism. A strong cast find some passion in it but the struggle is hard, comrades.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. No perf Dec 24, 26. ◪

□ **A SPANNER IN THE WORKS**: Three retired lawyers persuade a *stranger to submit to a mock trial, with* alarming results. In staging of Durrenmatt's 1955 radio play. A bit old-fashioned but worth a visit.
Greenwich Studio, Prince of Orange, Greenwich High St, SE10 (081-858 2862). Tue-Sun, 8pm; no perf Dec 24, 26. Until Jan 8.

□ **A TALE OF TWO CITIES**: Alexis Denisof plays Darnay and Timothy Walker is Sydney Carton in Matthew Francis's version of the Dickens epic. Self-sacrifice, the guillotine and lots of knitting.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Dec 26, 27 and Jan 2, 3.30pm, and all Sats, 2.30pm. Until Feb 4. No perf Dec 24. ◪

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN**: Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia Hille show how youthful high spirits petrify into grim old age. Superb performances in Edward Albee's powerful drama.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. No perf Dec 24-26.

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA**: Tom Hollander sings Macheath in Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht". Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive *revival. New song lyrics from Jeremy Sams*
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Dec 24, 3pm only ◪

□ **TOPP SECRET**: An evening of *good humoured as well as musical larks* and camp parody by the NZ identical Topp twins.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (071-637 8270). Tue-Sat, 8pm. No perf Dec 24-27. Until Jan 7

□ **TREASURE ISLAND**: Roy Marsden's capable one-legged performance cannot save this dim *production. Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of* bilge.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-236 2211). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats most days, 2pm or 2.30pm. No perf Dec 26. Until Jan 14. ◪

□ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND**: Three children find a fugitive in a barn and mistake him for Jesus. National Youth Music Theatre present the Russell Labey/Richard Taylor musical based on the popular film.
Riverside Studio 1, Crisp Rd, *Hammersmith*, W6 (081-741 2255). Dec 23, 28-31: 7.30pm, mats Dec 23 and 28-31, 2.30pm. Until Dec 31. ◪

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Patrick Barlow plays the unsquashable Toad in this year's revival, wonderfully staged, witty and lovely to look at.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Wed, Sat and on Thurs Dec 29, 2pm. Until Jan 14. No perf Dec 24. ◪

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (071-930 8800) . □ **Beautiful Thing**: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) ... □ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (071-867 1044) ... □ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ... ◪ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) ... □ *Copacabana: Prince of Wales* (071-839 5972) ... □ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (071-734 8951) □ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) ... □ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ◪ **Grease**. Dominion (071-416 6060) □ **An Inspector Calls**: Aldwych (071-836 6404) ... ■ **Les Misérables**. Palace (071-434 0909) ... ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal (071-494 5400) □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... □ **Neville's Island** Apollo (071-494 5070) .. □ **On Approval**: *Playhouse (071-839 4401)* ... □ **Once on This Island**. Island (Royalty). (071-494 5090) .. □ **Only the Lonely**: Piccadilly (071-369 1734) .. ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ... ■ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**: Strand (071-930 8800) ... □ **The Queen and I**. Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . □ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (071-836 8888) ... □ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (071-928 7616) ... ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) .. ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (071-344 0055) ... □ **Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Correct at time of going to press; please check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **D2: THE MIGHTY DUCKS** (U): Stale adventures of America's ice hockey team in the Junior Goodwill Games. With Emilio Estevez. Director, Sam Weisman.
Odeons Mezzanine (0426-915 683)

CURRENT

THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT (15): Two drag queens and a transsexual get stuck in the Australian outback. Joyful and vulgar romp with Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving: director, Stephen Elliott.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) ***Shaftesbury Avenue*** *(071-836 6279)* **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772)**Screen/Green** (071-226 3520)

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER (12): Harrison Ford fights Government duplicity and Colombia's drug cartels. Philip Noyce directs the best Jack Ryan adventure so far.
Empire (0800 888911)

THE CLIENT (15): Mediocre version of John Grisham's thriller about a boy in jeopardy, with Susan Sarandon, Tommy Lee Jones and Brad Renfro. Director, Joel Schumacher.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

◆ **CORRINA, CORRINA** (PG): Housemaid Whoopi Goldberg reawakens a household numbed by grief. Increasingly predictable sentimental drama with Ray Liotta and *Tina Majorino. Director, Jessie Nelson.*
Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

DEAR DIARY (15): Delightful, freewheeling film journal from Italian actor-director Nanni Moretti.
Curzon West (071-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (071-727 6705) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

L'ENFER (15): Jealousy rages in a provincial hotel. Uneven thriller from Claude Chabrol, with Emmanuelle *Béart.* **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

◆ **FORREST GUMP** (12): Endearing if indulgent odyssey through post-war America, ideal for baby boomers. With Tom Hanks. Director, Robert Zemeckis.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGMs: Baker St** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (071-370 *2636)* ***Trocadero*** ◪ *(071-434 0031)* **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER (U): The New York City Ballet's famous production, reverently transferred to film with Macaulay Culkin as the Nutcracker Prince. Director, Emile Ardolino.
MGMs: Fulham Rd ◪ (071-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Rd** (071-636 6148)

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU (PG): Bland comedy about a winning lottery ticket, with Nicolas Cage, Bridget Fonda and Rosie Perez. Director, Andrew Bergman.
UCI Whiteleys ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG). Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant. With Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito. Director, Ivan Reitman.
Empire ◪ (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18): Enjoyably amoral tale of sex, power and $700,000, with Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale to end them all.
Electric ◪ (071-792 2020) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

◆ **MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN** (15): Unwieldy, overdone, unenjoyable slog through *the famous story. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars with Robert De Niro* and Helena Bonham Carter.
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098)

MINA TANNENBAUM (12). Romane Bohringer and Elsa Zylberstein enliven an uneven story of two Jewish friends in Paris. Writer-director, Martine Dugowson.
Minema (071-235 4225)

◆ **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** (U): John Hughes's gooey but just about *digestible remake of the 1947 fantasy,* with Richard Attenborough as a department store Santa.
Barbican ◪ (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** *(0426 914501)* ***Swiss Cottage*** *(0426* 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (792 3332)

◆ **THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS** (PG): The King of Hallowe'en tries to take over Christmas. Technically brilliant puppet fantasy conceived by Tim Burton, directed by Henry Selick.
Barbican ◪ (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426-915 574) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520)**Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **PRINCESS CARABOO** (PG): Airy, amusing historical diversion, with Phoebe Cates as the mysterious girl believed to be a Far Eastern princess. With Jim Broadbent, John Lithgow, Stephen Rea, Wendy Hughes. Director, Michael Austin.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (071-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

◆ **PULP FICTION** (18): Quentin Tarantino's flamboyant crime epic weaves together three tales from the LA underworld. With John Travolta, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.
Gate ◪ (071-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Screen/Baker St** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (071-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

THE SHADOW (12): Laboured adventures of the 1930s crimefighter, with Alec Baldwin, John Lone and Penelope Ann Miller. Director, Russell Mulcahy.
Warner ◪ (071-437 4343)

SLEEP WITH ME (18): LA friends party, play poker and suffer in love. Uneven first feature by Rory Kelly, featuring Eric Stoltz, Meg Tilly and Craig Sheffer.
MGM Panton Street (071-930 0631) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666)

STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE (18): Sharp and ebullient plea for tolerance, sexual and otherwise, from veteran Cuban director Tomás Gutiérrez Alea.
Metro (071-437 0757)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15): Kieslowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives, a majestic climax to his trilogy. With Irène Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant.
Chelsea (071-351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** (071-369 1720) **Lumiere** *(071-836 0691)* ***Phoenix*** *(081-883* 2233) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

POP ON FRIDAY: A year of great albums . . . Trad jazz classics revisited

Hands off to a great year

1994's musical booty will make posterity drool and critics mutilate themselves

I seem to recall — at about this time last year — sitting on top of a CD mountain and smugly reflecting that, when I finally became an old, toothless grandmother, I could bore my grandchildren to tears telling them that I was alive in the Legendary Year of Coolness, 1993. Suede, Luscious Jackson and Tindersticks all unleashed debut albums. Nirvana released *In Utero*. PJ Harvey's *Dry* arrived, and Björk put out its polar opposite, *Debut*. Blur's *Modern Life Is Rubbish*, and Boo Radleys' *Giant Steps* were rebirths of a spectacular kind, and Pet Shop Boys' *Very* was brushed-chrome elegance. This is as good as it gets, I reflected on New Year's Eve, putting them all in alphabetical order and awaiting 1994 with bated booze. If next year is as good, I'll eat my own hands.

Which is why I'm typing this, rather regretfully, with a stick attached to my forehead with an elastic headband; and will probably never bang out "Chopsticks" on the piano again.

When we look back at it from the heights of the year 2000, *1994* will be acknowledged as this decade's defining *moment — a synthesis of laid-back LA* G-funk; brattish Brit-pop; melancholy ghost-town trip-hop; scouring, all-*devouring demons let loose on vinyl*; and elegiac swoons and groans from *musicians in abandon with their* muses. To nick a phrase, "We've never had it so good". 1994 would make a *deaf man whoop with joy.*

And the best of the best is, without a doubt, Jeff Buckley's **Grace** (Columbia), the most staggering debut by a solo artist in the past 20 years, and really quite good, as well. Blessed with a famous dead dad (legendarily obscure folk singer Tim Buckley), a voice that could make toasters cry, and a brace of hymns to lost lovers, Buckley has been the discerning person's soundtrack to breakdowns this year.

"Eternal Life" has as yet unquantified healing powers, and the title track is, even as we speak, raising the dead from their graves and bringing about peace in the troubled corners of the world. And if all that wasn't enough, he's spectacularly good-looking, too. One for the Christmas stocking. The album would make a nice present, too.

Luscious Jackson followed up their debut last year with **Natural Ingredients** (Grande Royale), Madonna's *favourite album of 1994 — but don't let* that put you off. Laid-back New York all-girl hip-hop, with delightfully succinct "most-men-are-weak" lyrics and the kind of rhythms you hear blasting out of open-top cars at 3am. Luscious Jackson are The Beastie Boys' prodigies — signed to their Grande Royale label — and it seemed for a while that the prodigies were overtaking their masters; but then the Beasties put out **Ill Communication** (Grande Royale), a brattish exploration of funk, hip-hop, jazz, hardcore guitar and lyrics about sex and food, and natural order was restored.



Beastie Boys: despite hot competition from label-mates Luscious Jackson, they showed who is still the boss



CAITLIN MORAN

Portishead's stunning debut **Dummy** (Go! Discs) has won most critics' end-of-year polls — they're one of those bands that comes along every five years or so, and gains fans through word of mouth and endlessly played EPs, with not a speck of hype in sight. Portishead's astonishing performance on *Later — With Jools Holland* propelled the album up the *charts again: it* seems this is one band that will not fulfil the old prophecy of genius dying young and poor.

Kristin Hersh's **Hips and Makers** (4AD) and Hole's **Live Through This** (Geffen) represented the two extremes of female rage and madness — Kristin with tiny, graceful acoustic songs and a sense of resolve; Courtney Love with sprawling, bloodied wails and an unsettling feeling of troubles just beginning.

Manic Street Preachers' **Holy Bible** (CBS) continued this feeling — a tense, almost unpleasant album that foreshadowed lyricist Richey James's breakdown this summer. There are points on the album where it sounds as if the band have been given 24 hours to live — the desperation is electrifying. Nirvana's **Unplugged in New York** (Geffen) is equally harrowing listening — Cobain must have had visions of his death the night before he recorded it. His cover of Leadbelly's "Where Did You Sleep Last Night?" coils and writhes with horror — Cobain sounds as if he is singing his own obituary.

On the Brit pop front, Suede's **Dog Man Star** (Nude), Blur's **Parklife** (Food), Oasis's **Definitely Maybe** (Creation), and Stone Roses' **Second Coming** (Geffen), pretty much defined the year, with the help of Pulp's **His 'n' Hers** (Island), Therapy?'s **Troublegum** (A&M), Morrissey's **Vauxhall and I** (EMI) and Shampoo's riotous **We Are Shampoo** (Food).

All the nasty grunge-boys we were plagued with last year seem to have finally gone back to tending petrol pumps in Idaho, leaving Britain to dwell smugly on its huge reservoir of talent. And secure in the knowledge that British is Best this year, we indulged in Warren G's **G-Funk Era** (Island) and its companion piece, Snoop Doggy Dogg's **Doggystyle** (Interscope), two laid-back journeys through fat LA sunsets and Quentin Tarantino-like death and violence.

All in all, a year worth losing my hands for.

JAZZ: Authoritative interpretations of the Sidney Bechet legacy

Reinventing tradition

Bob Wilber
Pizza On The Park

CONSIDERING that he belongs among the half dozen most important improvisers of the century, Sidney Bechet remains a curiously unfashionable figure today. New Orleans music being regarded as terminally unhip and somehow "primitive", Bechet's reputation has suffered accordingly.

One musician who has fought to restore that reputation is the American expatriate Bob Wilber, the kid from well-to-do Scarsdale who studied with the great man in the 1940s and, much later, founded the marvellous repertory band, Bechet Legacy. Wilber has described his ambivalent relationship with this prickly, Rabelaisian character in his autobiography, *Music Was Not Enough*, an unusually perceptive insider's account of the jazz life.

This week he was rummaging through the Bechet songbook once more as part of his annual "Christmas party" residency in Knightsbridge. Reserved and self-effacing in person, Wilber is the mirror image of Bechet; no one else, though, performs this music with as much authority and affection. Now that he has taken up the straight soprano saxophone again, after years of concentrating solely on the curved model, his playing has also taken on a saltier, more aggressive edge.

The presence of a guest player, in the form of clarinettist-cum-cartoonist Wally Fawkes, made the evening doubly enjoyable. While he may be better known for the much-lamented "Flook" strip, Fawkes has long been one of the stalwarts of Britain's trad movement. After a slightly hesitant start, when one or two cues were fluffed, Fawkes soon entered into the spirit of the duets, re-creating the celebrated double-act between Bechet and that notorious connoisseur of marijuana, Mezz Mezzrow.

These were not clinical note-for-note copies. Wilber and Fawkes have their own voices, and the backing trio led by Mick Pyne at the piano, with Dave Green on bass and Bobby Worth at the drums, gave the ensemble a rather more contemporary gloss.

Harmonising on "Revolutionary Blues", Wilber and Fawkes struck sparkling lines off each other. On the gut-bucket blues "Out Of The Gallion" both men tiptoed into the lowermost register, their notes glowing like lanterns in a dense pea-souper.

Each piece was crammed with incident, the solos pithy and full of dramatic contrast as the players ad-libbed obbligatos and riffs. Wilber triumphantly reminded us that Bechet's music is timeless, and about as primitive as a Fabergé egg. His residency concludes tomorrow with the extrovert swing trumpeter Kenny Baker.

CLIVE DAVIS

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

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LYTTLETON Ton't 7.30 OUT OF A HOUSE WALKED A MAN...Musical scenes from the writings of Danil Kharms devised by Theatre de Complicite
COTTESLOE Ton't 7.30 TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN adapted by Mary Morris from the novel by Morris Gleitzman.

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Extra Mats 23, 28, 29 Dec at 3pm No Mat 27 Dec
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[هكذا من الاصل]

هكذا من الأصل

... what do Michael Ball and the Cult have in common? Passionate fans, for one ... plus the CD that's a magazine is back

Such a nice boy, and what a good voice

Alan Jackson avoids the souvenirs, but leaves with happy memories of one man and other people's music

Michael Ball
Hammersmith Apollo

Because I arrived nice and early, there was ample time to buy a programme and a bottle of sophisticated foreign lager and to settle down to study the full range of Michael Ball's facial expressions. He could smile for Britain, that's for sure.

See him do it with closed lips and a hint of a raised eyebrow, while standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Shirley Bassey, herself sporting an Ivana Trump hairstyle and the kind of full beam more often associated with car headlights.

See him do it with his top row of teeth bared and a boyish twinkle (in tandem with the leonine-tressed Daryl Hall); with a full complement of teeth on display and a hint of a giggle (while cuddling up to Lulu), and even in circumstances that would make many a weaker man crack (like finding yourself next to Robert Palmer, who is wearing the world's widest tie and too much Brylcreem).

But that's not all Ball can offer on the physiognomic front. He can also do boyish and cuddly. He can do sad-eyed vulnerability as well. And he does a very nice line in winsome, if winsome is what you're after.

The largely female audience for Wednesday night's show at the Hammersmith Apollo — the first of two appearances bringing to an end a 17-date British tour — seemed more than happy with such versatility, and turned the glossy pages of their own programmes admiringly.

Many had been tempted by the displays of Michael merchandise in the foyer, and some had succumbed, proving the wisdom of a pricing policy that seemed extremely and endearingly reasonable by normal pop standards. "If you can't treat yourself at Christmas, when can you?" one woman asked rhetorically, as she opted for a £22 sweatshirt and £4 poster. "When indeed?" I replied, feigning interest in the night's star bargain, a key ring priced at £2.

Inside the auditorium the atmosphere was part West End theatre matinée, part office party. There were older ladies in tweed coats and sensible shoes, younger women with tinsel in their hair and astonishingly high heels, and occasional couples — some hand-holding Mr and Mrs Marrieds, enjoying a night away from the kids, and others carefully dressed young men, casual but smart in their jeans and sports jackets.

It all went to epitomise the wide audience Ball enjoys these days, thanks, in part at least, to the impetus of his television variety series this past summer, on which he smiled and sang not only with the aforementioned guests but also the assorted likes of Cher, Tony Bennett, James Brown and Montserrat Caballé. The television people would seem to feel that he is the acceptable, cross-generational face of light entertainment, and his energetic, 100-minute performance helped to show why.

Not surprisingly, it's mainly to do with the voice. As muscular as you would expect from an artist who has been a leading man on the London and Broadway stages, it is also ever-so-slightly characterless amid the hustle and bustle of a contemporary pop arrangement. Which is actually something of a virtue. Because, while many musical theatre stars sound arch and slightly ridiculous when attempting more mainstream material, Ball is able to carry off a range of styles with enthusiasm and a eager-to-impress charm.

> "Ball is still best on songs from the shows, where pace and drama are inbuilt"

Having appeared, rather self-importantly, at the top of an on-stage stairway to open with Carly Simon's "Let The River Run", he proved the point by singing first the old Walker Brothers hit "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Any More", then Elton John's recent "Circle Of Life". Neither version could hope to be definitive, but Ball's self-belief and strong presentation made them comfortably better than adequate.

The difficulty of tracking down strong original material is obviously a problem — a recent album, *One Careful Owner*, suffers as a result. Which is why Ball is still best on songs from the shows — selections from *Les Mis*, *Aspects of Love*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *West Side Story* — where drama and pace are inbuilt. But a welcome sign that his confidence is growing in other areas came via a genuinely moving version of the theme from the Bette Midler film, *The Rose* — which is also the title song of a forthcoming television series on women's health issues, and with all proceeds from its singles sales going to Research into Ovarian Cancer, the charitable fund Ball did a great deal to launch.

Somehow the greater whole had the look and feel of a made-for-television special, particularly in such segments as the Big Apple section, where Billy Joel's "New York State Of Mind" segued into the Drifters classic "On Broadway". Equally the trio of ballad hits written by Paul Williams for the Carpenters and the doo-wop version of "Why Do Fools Fall In Love", performed in tight harmony with three backing singers and members of Ball's 11-piece mini-orchestra seemed obvious set-pieces, designed to distract from the singer's lack of a convincing back-catalogue of his own. And, amid it all, Michael emoted, smouldered and gave his all, whether dancing in his winningly clumsy style, or standing nonchalantly with his hand in his trouser pocket, as self-conscious as the male models you see on the front of patterns for chunky-knits.

There were bizarre moments: the audience hanging on his every word as he reprised the latest plot development concerning Samir and Deirdre, Curly and Raquel in *Coronation Street*, and the concert equivalent of a pitch invasion that occurred when he sang his Eurovision runner-up "One Step Out Of Time". But, as row upon transfixed row roared its appreciation of the climactic "Love Changes Everything", his first chart hit, it was impossible not to be struck by the singer's powerful hold on an audience.

There's a bit of the Cliff Richard about his stage presence, a touch of the David Essex and the Marti Pellow too. Charmers all, and each similarly proficient at smiling. But, with time, luck and experience, there is no reason why Ball should not emerge, triumphantly, as his own man.





PHOTOGRAPHS: JULIAN HERBERT

A million miles apart in approach but joined by the electric microphone and an adoring public. Michael Ball brings years of West End and Broadway expertise to bear, while the Cult's Ian Astbury lets a set of leather lungs do the talking — or, to be more precise, yelling

Delicate sound of thunder

Louise Grey on the happy return of goth's goths

The Cult
Brixton Academy

With tickets for the Cult's first British tour in seven years at a premium, it is tempting to write off the rapturous receptions given to Ian Astbury and Billy Duffy as a case of absence making the heart grow fonder. Certainly, audiences have taken the Cult's reappearance gladly; caught originally between Gothic excess and fullblown rock'n'roll, the band provided the 1980s with a defining sound.

But, nostalgia aside, vocalist Astbury and guitarist Duffy have used their lengthy time away wisely. With two new members — Craig Adams on bass and drummer Scott Garrett — the Cult have repositioned themselves in the wake of grunge. Their latest, eponymously titled album is, for all its bombast, a more intimate affair that suggests a welcome return to form.

Such newfound energy has also injected a muscular vitality into the Cult's performance. As Duffy and tour guest James Stevenson produced the set's white-knuckled guitar pace, Astbury capered about with a compulsive urgency. At opposite ends of the set, songs like "Black Sun" and "Sacred Life" — the former about Astbury's experience as an abused child — glowed with a fierce dignity.

Some whackiness remained, perhaps unavoidably, considering that fans were continually invading the stage. "Love," the very antithesis of anything ambient, was dedicated to the Future Sound Of London for their interest in meditation. "Rain", a rock piledriver if ever there was one, was, Astbury said, a "celebration of the orgasm".

Duffy and Stevenson interlocked well, soaring above the solid rhythms generated by Adams and Garrett and giving favourites like "Sun King", "Edie (Ciao Baby)" and an encore of "She Sells Sanctuary" a stratospheric destination.

Duffy et al showed a general reluctance to edit themselves: the guitar solo started early on "Lil' Devil", and turned "Be Free" into an interminable mesh of sound. However, versions of their forthcoming single, "Star", and an electrifying rendition of "Fire Woman" quickly re-orientated the band to their epic theme.

Astbury ended it all by sinking to his knees in supplication. "Freedom!" he bellowed. "Are we free?" To which the answer for the thousands who had paid to enter his presence was: not exactly, but value for money nevertheless.

Read it hear first

NEW ALBUMS: *Volume* is back, chock full o' facts and furious fretboarding, while weirdo beardos ZZ Top colour their roots blue

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Volume Twelve — Winter '94
(RTM/Pinnacle 12VCD12)
VOLUME is the periodically released compilation disc that thinks it's a magazine. The twelfth edition (already!) sticks to the established format and provides another intriguing snapshot of current activity on the cutting edge of pop. Thus, an 18-track CD containing "exclusive new releases" by acts including Ride, Spiritualized, Massive Attack and Love Spit Love comes packaged inside a 192-page (CD-sized) book, incorporating interviews with all of the artists featured on the disc.

The beauty of the arrangement is that the listener/reader is introduced to a raft of new sounds — more than half of the performers featured have yet to release an album — in a way that is much more informative and persuasive than simply hearing (or reading about) them cold. It could do with a sub-editor to make the text run continuously from one page to the next without either missing out or repeating whole chunks, but generally the features are well thought-out and the writing tempered by the knowledge that it will be accompanied by the actual sounds under discussion.

The mood of the disc ranges from the ambient noodling of Node and Experimental Audio Research to the reconstructed punk-in-odd-time-signatures of Pet Lamb. But the most impressive tracks on this outing are "Lower Than Stars", a smoochy, ambient/techno number by Laika, and "Tomorrow Night" by G Love and Special Sauce, an amalgam of blues and hip hop memorably described as sounding like "John Lee Hooker meets KRS-1 in a Louisiana opium den".

ZZ TOP
One Foot In The Blues
(Warner Bros. 9362-45815)
THE cover of *One Foot In The Blues* is dominated by an alarming, sepia-tinted photograph of the Texan trio taken before they grew their beards. So there is no mistaking it as anything other than a compilation of old material, released by ZZ Top's former record company, to coincide with the band's shows this week in Birmingham and London.

But instead of stringing together the familiar "greatest hits" the 17-track collection gathers up a cross-section of lesser known songs that underline the Top's abiding affinity with the blues. The tracks span 20 years, from the thin and gnarly production of "Certified Blues" (from *ZZ Top's First Album*, released in 1970) to the full-bore heavy rock feel of "2000 Blues" (from their 1990 album *Recycler*).

With a playing style as thick and languid as his southern drawl, Billy Gibbons is a blues guitarist to rank alongside the very best the rock world has produced. There are plenty of vintage performances here, including "A Fool For Your Stockings", "Apologies To Pearly" and "My Head's In Mississippi", all laced with the droll, coded humour that lends ZZ Top their uniquely endearing edge.

But there are also several questionable inclusions and many glaring omissions. Although a fine number, "Heaven, Hell Or Houston" is utterly inappropriate in this company. At the same time, it beggars belief that "Blue Jean Blues" (from *Fandango!*), the greatest blues song ZZ Top have recorded, is not included. Hardly less surprising is the absence of "Waiting For The Bus" and "Jesus Just Left Chicago" from *Tres Hombres*.

So, although a neat idea, it's an album which has rather been botched in the execution.

ALBUMS

1	Carry On Up The Charts — The Best Of	Beautiful South (Go! Discs)
2	Crocodile Shoes	Jimmy Nail (East West)
3	Live At The BBC	Beatles (Apple)
4	Cross Road — The Best Of	Bon Jovi (Jambco)
5	Steam	East 17 (London)
6	Always & Forever	Eternal (EMI)
7	The Hit List	Cliff Richard (EMI)
8	Fields Of Gold — The Best Of 1984-94	Sting (A&M)
9	The Best Of	New Order (London)
10	The Pure Genius Of	Louis Armstrong (EMI)

Compiled by MRIB



Ride, one of the better-known groups to be found on *Volume Twelve*

THE IRRESISTIBLE FORCE
Global Chillage
(Rising High Records RSN CD24)
BRIAN Eno once defined ambient music as being "like a cloud or a river: it never changes much, but it never stops changing". With *Global Chillage* — surely a classic of the genre — the description even extends to the artwork, a shimmering hologram picture of the Earth, which throws up different shapes and luminous shards of colour every time you look at it. The effect, like that of various tracks called "Moonrise", "Sunstroke", "Snowstorm" and "Waveform", is simultaneously tantalising and soothing.

The Irresistible Force, otherwise known as Mixmaster Morris, differs from studio-bound ambient stars such as Aphex Twin and the Future Sound Of London, insofar as he is a touring DJ. In seeking to provide a "chill-out" area where people can take refuge from the pounding beats at clubs, parties and raves, the 33-year-old Morris has had to mould and hone his electronic music into thoughtful and persuasive shapes. It may sound random, but his gently drifting patchworks of synthesized sound and percussion have careful structures that leave little to chance.

Rejoicing under the slogan "It's time to lie down and be counted", *Global Chillage* offers an oasis of strange, futuristic calm in an otherwise strident and stressful world.

DAVID SINCLAIR

NEW WAVES

Surprise package

Warning: do not judge Royal Trux by their record sleeve

Critics are a dishonest bunch. We claim to write about music but, invariably, that is the last, desperate option. Give us stories about the lead singer's fringe or the state of his scarifications and we are sheep in clover. Anything from the historical significance of the fuzzbox to the implications of tour sponsorship will do, so long as we can avoid the dread subject of sound.

Some weeks ago, I was sent that rare thing, a vinyl 7in single. Included with the single, "Mercury", b/w "Shockwave Rider", was a photograph of the band that had made it, Royal Trux.

Forgive my bigotry, but Royal Trux — a duo by the name of Jennifer and Neal — look like the sort of American rock'n'rollers I never wish to interview.

So to write about their artfully patched jeans and self-conscious avoidance of photographic conventions would enable me, I realised, to pour concrete into that terrifying empty space called Talking About Music.

I could discuss the colour photographs on the cover, for example, all of which are rather nice, or I could say that *The Shockwave Rider* is a science fiction novel by John Brunner, generally regarded as an influential forerunner of the cyberpunk school of writing.

"Mercury" is interestingly overheated, I might then add, on the subject of (or should I say the word?) mercury. Pop-fan screams and what might be a drum machine appear in unusual places. S for striking, then.

But "Shockwave Rider", on the other hand, is another thing entirely. This is Pere Ubu for the 1990s; or perhaps the rock equivalent of Tricky. In my opinion, Tricky released the three most arresting singles of 1994 — "Ponderosa", "Aftermath" and "Overcome" — so the comparison is intended as a compliment.

But flattery avoids the issue: what does "Shockwave Rider" sound like? It's distorted, funky, abrasive, set firmly in the American storytelling tradition, yet off-centre, detuned and obscure. Brilliant, in other words. So I wound up having to talk about the music anyway ...

DAVID TOOP

Meeting price of maximum exposure

Richard Evans talks to George Ward, the businessman turned horse racing sponsor



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Ward's company has developed into a hugely successful business. Now, he ploughs more than £750,000 a year into racing sponsorship

Almost half a century after arriving in England with his mother, sister, and just £12 and ten shillings, George Ward now pumps upwards of £750,000 a year into sponsoring 100 horse races, including the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. But do not imagine for a moment that this son of a merchant adventurer regards himself as Father Christmas to a sport that he has loved since going racing as a boy in Calcutta.

"I am a hard-nosed businessman trying to get the best value for money from my advertising dollar," he said. "I have to be a marketing man and businessman primarily, otherwise we would not exist. If I just went around doling out largesse, I would be bust: and I am not going to be bust."

Now prosperous, Ward knows all about survival. In the 1970s, the massed ranks of the trade union movement tried to kill off his business in one of the bloodiest post-war industrial disputes. Grunwick, the name of his west London photo-processing plant which is now the largest single laboratory of its kind in the world, became synonymous with the ugly violence of the picket line as a howling mob descended, day after day, outside his factory gates.

The issue at stake was the right not to belong to a trade union. Nowadays, it would hardly raise a murmur, but in those pre-Thatcher years, epitomised by the closed shop, it was considered to be a heresy. "We were going to be made an example of to all independent companies; we were going to be flattened," Ward said. "I remember Len Murray [then general secretary of the Trades Union Congress] saying, 'If we can't beat Grunwick, then we can't beat anything at all'.

"The reason they lost is that people generally were very fair-minded and didn't like what they were seeing. People started saying it can't be that bad a company if people are still going through the picket lines to get to work."

Ward chuckled when recounting the day a trade union leader was allowed inside Grunwick to address the workforce, only to be howled down by the very people whom he was seeking to represent. "They hated him and you could not have got any of them to join a union," he said. "You don't terrorise people into doing something, you try to persuade them. It is like sponsorship; the same thing. You have to persuade people to sponsor, then you have to try to make them most welcome when they sponsor."

Ward has been sponsoring races for 16 years, but the 1990s have seen a dramatic growth in his involvement. The escalation coincided with the building of a second brand — Tripleprint — but the underlying reason remains the tremendous value offered by racing, compared with other sports.

Anyone doubting his wisdom should heed what happened when Ward temporarily stepped down from the day-to-day running of his company in 1986. The television advertising and promotions budget was slashed overnight, and Grunwick's profits soon fell just as sharply. After two years, the banks urged Ward to resume control. Grunwick — and racing — have not looked back since.

Bonusprint and Tripleprint now lend their names to some of the best races in the land, and on more than one occasion Ward has stepped in at the eleventh hour. Two years ago, he was telephoned on the eve of an important steeplechase at Cheltenham to be asked if he would fill the gap left by a big sponsor whose business had got into trouble. "I had five minutes to decide — and agreed — and that is how the Tripleprint Chase came about," Ward said.

However, his support and belief in the value of race sponsorship is tempered by concern at the lukewarm reception from some quarters. "The BBC does not help," he said. "They are totally non-commercial. They don't really want to show sponsors' banners during races, and some people in racing themselves have not assisted in the promotion of the sport because they think advertising is not very pleasant or a good thing. People's concepts have got to change.

"If you want an advertiser to put in lots of money, you only have to look at Formula One motor racing, where every inch of a car is covered in logos. That may be taking it to extremes, but it costs £20 million to sponsor a car, and the whole of racing gets only £10.5 million in sponsorship, so there is something wrong somewhere."

While Ward welcomes the arrival of Douglas Erskine-Crum and Nick Cheyne to run Ascot, he is quick to highlight their contradictory attitude to sponsorship. "They say they welcome sponsors and want to find one for the Festival meeting, but don't want to have sponsors in June [for Royal Ascot], because it would spoil the atmosphere," he said. Similarly, he is not impressed with the Tote, the pool betting organisation run by Lord Wyatt of Weeford. "The Tote is crying out for modernisation, for non-political leadership," he said. "It is a business, not a political platform. It should be run by people who are sympathetic to the racegoer. It suffers from lack of organisation and marketing expertise."

Then there is the Government, which takes £350 million a year from betting on horses in Britain, disproportionately more than in other countries. Somehow, it has to be persuaded that, by cutting the high rate of betting duty and so boosting internationally low prize-money, it will be rewarded with increased revenue from a thriving sport. "They must stop eating the seed corn and offer a helping hand," Ward said.

As Ward's business turnover tops £50 million, perhaps the Treasury might just begin to recognise the value of supporting racing. A man once described as an "industrial hooligan" by a trade union leader continues to profit from doing so.



The Grunwick laboratory became the scene of one of the bloodiest post-war industrial disputes in the 1970s

Heavyweight mouthpiece who renders own verdicts

There will come a time, I mean there surely must come a time, when British heavyweight boxing will mount a more realistic challenge for the world title than via good old Frank Bruno, pantomime engagements permitting.

At York Hall, in the "heart of the East End of London", as the master of ceremonies puts it, Barry Hearn's Matchroom boxing company gives tomorrow's contenders a platform: the undercard of championship bouts is filled with men who need the experience, appreciate the money and enjoy the support which oozes from the crowd in generous cart-loads.

If I were a boxer setting out on a professional career, I would fight nowhere else nor for any other promoter. It was here on Tuesday evening that Francis Ampofo (Bethnal Green) defeated Daren Fifield (Oxford) for the Commonwealth flyweight title, as a consequence of which there was such shouting and cheering and dancing around the ring by Mr Ampofo's cousins and his sisters and his nieces and his aunts that his infant daughter, Olivia, was handed up through the ropes into the canvas square, as much for her safety as for a fatherly hug.

Flyweight is less than eight stone; both men made it by two ounces which is the weight of a Mars bar — which both men looked as if they badly needed.

The previous bout had been between Pat Passley, of Edmonton, and Michael Holden, of Manchester. Passley is black, weighs three pounds more than the two flyweights put together, appeared in his corner wearing red shorts, that reached to his knees, a black gown and a mortarboard. Though this was only his second pro bout, he wishes to be known as The Fighting Lawyer ... perhaps to become boxing's answer to George Carman QC.

Gumshield Gus, the Matchroom cornerman who oversees the sponges, sawdust bowl, drinking water and possesses a mental clock that causes him to push the stool through the ropes two seconds before the end of each round, gave Passley one look and said: "Rubbish."

Holden is white, weighs 15½ stone and is similarly inexperienced. Rubbish, Gus said after they had boxed for 15 seconds. "Bowfem". Holden is from Hearn's stable, and, judging by his master's support, a favourite boxer. There is something very endearing about honest heavyweights.

Holden's punches are jabs and swings, and if he has a fault (he actually has any number of faults), the most notable is that he holds his head up high. This is admirable in a politician but hugely dangerous for one on the receiving end of violence. Nevertheless, Holden won the first round, thanks to some thumping connections to the lawyer's person which nearly caused his return to chambers. His patron the while exhibited considerable joy and the ringside crowd, who are ever behind the home man, began to shout advice like, "relax, give him an uppercut".

Holden could not relax if he tried and has yet to learn an uppercut. Telling him to execute such a punch is like asking a windmill to do a waltz. But Holden won the second round also; more great pile-driving sweeps, some of which landed on or near the man of law.

"It's awful," Gus said, and there were few who would disagree with the assessment. It was also great entertainment.

In round three ... it is worth going to York Hall just for the pleasure of witnessing the vision of loveliness who holds up the number of the round to come ... Passley had the edge.

Now it was he who came forward; he whose massive fists connected with his opponent, and when the vision ... whose fine, fair shoulder-length hair seems to have got longer since my last visit ... intimated that round four was about to happen. Holden held up his hand to denote wrist damage and retirement.

Passley held up his hands to persuade us that he was a worthy winner, as every punch of Holden's was a putative knockout attempt, he was tiring visibly and Passley may have been right.



FREUD ON FRIDAY

I saw two other fighters of whom more will be heard. Mark Delaney, from West Ham, disposed of Martin Jolly, from Alperton, a stand-in who never looked as if he would stand up, and did not. "People who are waiting by the telephone with their gloves on are usually survivors, say boxing folk. Jolly disproved this theory.

Delaney has now won 13 fights out of 13, but unless he is given better opponents he will begin to suffer from delusions of adequacy which is regressive in a boxer's career. Wins are fine, but wins against lame ducks are good only for statistics.

And there is Georgie Smith, from Basildon, a light-welterweight with fair hair, plaited into a sort of tea cosy, and legs like tree trunks giving him a low centre of gravity to go with his mean look. Mr Steve Bolt, of Plymouth, decided that the most useful reaction to being hit was to sit down and escape further punishment ... so we had some hits and some sits until the referee sensibly called it a night during the second round with Mr Smith hardly requiring another appointment with his hairdresser.

Jodami to run at Wetherby

BY OUR RACING STAFF

JODAMI led a steady exodus yesterday of entries from the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day. The nine-year-old was also engaged for the Ericsson Chase, at Leopardstown, on Wednesday. Peter Beaumont, his trainer, has decided simply to run the winner of the 1993 Cheltenham Gold Cup in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby on Monday instead.

His withdrawal, along with that of the Irish-trained Commercial Artist, increases the chance of a single-figure field for the grade one race, with doubts about the participation of Dubacilla, Lord Relic, Gale Again, Cogent and Black Humour.

Beaumont and John Yeadon, Jodami's owner, reached their decision after the horse worked yesterday morning. Beaumont's wife, Margaret, said: "Jodami worked well this morning and we are going to Wetherby because, as it's on our doorstep, it will be handy. We have to get a race into him now because he has only had threequarters of a race this season."

Jodami unseated Mark Dwyer four fences out in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock earlier this month and will have to concede 23lb to One Man, the winner of the Hennessy Gold Cup, at Wetherby. Cogent may also run.

Lord Relic is set to run in the Welsh National, at Chepstow, a race also favoured for Black Humour. Dubacilla's chances of running are dependent on more rain. Second Schedual, the mount of Richard Dunwoody, is Ireland's only confirmed runner.

Ladbrokes latest prices are: 5-2 Bradbury Star, 3-1 The Fellow and Barton Bank, 8-1 Travado, 10-1 Algan, 12-1 Dubacilla, Lord Relic (with a run) and Monsieur Le Curé, 16-1 Young Hustler, 20-1 others.

☐ Bruce Raymond has announced his retirement after 36 years as a jockey. Raymond, 51, is taking up the offer of a new job, helping to manage 300 horses owned by Maktoum Al Maktoum, by whom he was retained as a jockey.

☐ Carl Llewellyn, who cracked a vertebra in a fall at Cheltenham two weeks ago, will be released from Cheltenham general hospital today.

Leuila loses permit quest

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS rugby league club yesterday lost its eight-month battle to keep Peaufai Leuila. In spite of protracted negotiations, the Department of Employment refused the former Tonga rugby union threequarter a work permit.

Leuila, 25, the brother-in-law of Va'aiga Tuigamala, the Wigan and former All Black wing, made an impact when he scored two tries last April in one of his two appearances for the club. The player is set to move to Australia, with Perth Western Reds the favourites to sign him.

Tom Ellard, the St Helens vice-chairman, said: "Our move for him has foundered on bureaucracy and we are very disappointed. We believe that 'Afi' is a better player than others in this country who have been granted permits." The refusal to give Leuila clearance is part of a more rigorous enforcement of new criteria applying to foreign players. The case is the most prominent so far in attempts by clubs to gain work permits for overseas players.

An appeal against a two-year ban for steroid abuse by Jamie Bloem, the former Doncaster full back, is to be heard early in the new year. The South African, who tested positive for the anabolic steroid, nandrolone, is contesting the length of the sentence.

Greg Mackey, the Warrington captain, who has made 87 consecutive appearances since rejoining the club in 1992, is doubtful with a shoulder injury for the Boxing Day visit of Widnes. The club will make a decision after the match on whether to offer Takere Barlow, the Maori hooker, a long-term contract.

Andy Gregory, the Salford player-coach, is to return after missing two matches with a knee injury for the home match on Monday against Oldham. Ian Smales, the Castleford second-row forward, has a broken arm and will miss the holiday derby match at home to Featherstone Rovers, who have signed Warren Wilson from Halifax.

Sheffield Eagles yesterdsay signed Laurent Lucchese, the Huddersfield and France Under-21 utility back on loan for the rest of the season. Lucchese, 21, is expected to play full back in the derby match against Doncaster on Boxing Day.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	40	80	closed	closed	closed	snow	-8	22/12
(Lifts opening soon; prospects excellent)								
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	15	45	fair	powder	closed	snow	-9	22/12
(Powder building on all pistes; no queues; very cold)								
Obergurgl	30	60	good	powder	good	snow	-6	22/12
(Excellent skiing; dry, light powder at all levels)								
Söll	20	35	good	powder	closed	snow	-1	22/12
(New powder on hard base; prospects excellent)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	10	90	good	varied	art	sun	-14	20/12
(Pisteurs and snow machines aiding good skiing; cold)								
Chamonix	5	80	fair	varied	closed	cloud	-2	20/12
(Skiing still limited to Argentière; more snow needed)								
Courchevel	15	80	worn	varied	art	fine	-8	21/12
(Pistes becoming hard packed and worn)								
Flaine	15	100	fair	varied	closed	fair	-9	21/12
(Still only one piste open; more opening soon)								
Val d'Isère	30	105	good	varied	fair	sun	-10	21/12
(Generally very good skiing; odd rock low down; cold)								
Val Thorens	40	120	good	varied	good	sun	-15	21/12
(Excellent snow conditions but bitterly cold; no queues)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	10	200	good	varied	good	fine	-2	20/12
(Conditions generally excellent; Zermatt link open)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	10	40	fair	varied	closed	fine	-7	20/12
(Pistes icy in places; more lifts open this weekend)								
Mürren	20	60	powder	powder	powder	snow	-4	22/12
(Winteregg and Birg now open; resort getting busier)								
Verbier	15	90	good	varied	closed	fine	-5	20/12
(Mont Fort in excellent condition; very cold)								
Wengen	25	40	fair	powder	fair	snow	-2	22/12
(Powder snow on and off piste; lovely skiing)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

Mandela Trophy

PORT ELIZABETH: South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 44 runs in rain-affected match

SOUTH AFRICA

A C Hudson lbw b Wickremasinghe ... 27
G Kirsten b Dharmasena ... 20
D J Cullinan c Gurusinha b Dharmasena 63
*W J Cronje c de Silva b Kalpage ... 5
J N Rhodes c Mahanama b Dharmasena ... 53
D J Callaghan c Jayasuriya b Dharmasena ... 23
†D J Richardson c Ranatunga b Vaas ... 7
E O Simons c Kalpage b Vaas ... 11
C R J Matthews not out ... 11
P S de Villiers not out ... 7
Extras (lb 3, lb 7) ... 10
Total (8 wkts) ... 237

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-53, 3-79, 4-198, 5-200, 6-200, 7-210, 8-229

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 8-0-44-1; Vaas 9-0-42-2; Dharmasena 10-0-37-4; Muralitharan 10-0-22-0; Kalpage 10-1-51-1; Jayasuriya 3-0-21-0

SRI LANKA

R Mahanama c Ebsieen b Matthews ... 3
S Jayasuriya c sub b Matthews ... 20
A Gurusinha lbw b Cronje ... 23
A de Silva c Callaghan b Matthews ... 0
*A Ranatunga c and b Cronje ... 29
†H Tillekeratne not out ... 36
R Kalpage b Callaghan ... 9
K Dharmasena not out ... 12
Extras (lb 2, lb 4, nb1) ... 7
Total (6 wkts, 34 overs) ... 139

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-34, 3-34, 4-55, 5-84, 6-112.

C Vaas, P Wickremasinghe, M Muralitharan, did not bat

BOWLING: De Villiers 7-1-24-0, Matthews 7-0-22-3, Simons 7-0-25-0, Cronje 8-0-27-2, Callaghan 3-0-19-1 (nb-1), Ebsieen 3-0-16-0

PAARL, South Africa: Tour match (second day of three): Boland Boland 83 and 31-3; New Zealanders 86 (M Erasmus 6-22). Match abandoned because of dangerous state of pitch

YEA, Australia: Tour match (one-day): Zimbabweans 228-5 (G W Flower 83); Victoria Country XI 167-5. Zimbabweans won by 61 runs

PORT ELIZABETH: Tour match (one-day): Sri Lankans 202 v Eastern Province XI 166. Sri Lankans won by 36 runs.

DHAKA: One-day tournament: Bangladesh 167, Pakistan 168. Pakistan won by one wicket

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 107 Chicago 99, Miami 122 Milwaukee 112, New Jersey 117 Detroit 99, San Antonio 111 Denver 97, Orlando 102 LA Clippers 91

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round replay: Newcastle 0 Manchester City 2.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: First round: Postponed: Albion v Montrose

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich 1 QPR 2, Tottenham 1 Arsenal 1, Wimbledon 3 Bristol Rovers 1, Southampton 3 Luton 1. League cup: Birmingham 1 Swansea 1, Bath 1 Cheltenham 1.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 2 Rotherham 3, Tranmere 1 Coventry 0, Nottingham Forest 1 Sunderland 1; Bolton 2 Everton 1; Bolton 2 Everton 1. Second division: Port Vale 3 Mansfield 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round: Barrow 1 Lancaster City 3

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Lymington 3 Eastleigh 2; Andover 2 Portsmouth RN 2, Downton 0 Gosport Borough 1, Ryde Sports 1 Fleet Town 4

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES CUP: Second round, second leg: Ton Pentre 2 Maesteg Park 0 (Ton Pentre win 6-0 on agg) Third round, first leg: Ebbw Vale 1 Inter Cardiff 2

DIADORA LEAGUE: Third division: Harlow Town 1 Collier Row 2 (abandoned after 65 minutes, floodlight failure)

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Crewe Alexandra 1 Oxford United 0; Manchester United 1 Charlton Athletic 1, Dulwich Hamlet 0 Fulham 2

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Fourth round replay: Llandudno 3 Barry Town 1

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Wealdstone 4 Ashford Town 5

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: League Challenge Cup: Second round replay: Holker Old Boys 2 Oldham Town 0. First division: Darwen 1 Glossop North End 5.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Italy 3 Turkey 1 (in Pescara); Saudi Arabia 0 South Korea 1 (in Riyadh); Argentina 1 Romania 0 (in Buenos Aires).

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Mechelen 6 FC Liège 1, St Trond 0 Royal Antwerp 0; Standard Liège 1 Seraing 0; Ostend 0 Anderlecht 2, RWD Molenbeek 2 Beveren 0; AA Ghent 1 Aalst 2; Cercle Bruges 5 Lierse 0.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Nijmegen 0 Ajax 2.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Deportivo Coruña 1 Celta 2, Barcelona 1 Real Betis 1; Real Oviedo 1 Logrones 0; Real Sociedad 2 Albacete 0; Valencia 0 Sporting Gijon 0; Atletico Madrid 0 Racing Santander 1; Real Zaragoza 1 Español 0; Sevilla 3 Compostela 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Nottinghamshire 2 Lincolnshire 0; Greater Manchester 2 Cheshire 5. CML Under-17 Trophy: Nottinghamshire 1 Lincolnshire 3. London Under-15 Cup: Middlesex 10 Buckinghamshire 1; Suffolk 0 Cambridgeshire 1. Knowles Under 14 Cup: Middlesex 2 Buckinghamshire 1; Suffolk 0 Cambridgeshire 4.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Whitehawk; Shoreham v Three Bridges

HEREWARD SPORTS: United Counties League: Premier division: Holbeach v Spalding

RUGBY UNION

McEwan's inter-district championship
Edinburgh District v Scottish Exiles (at Murrayfield, 4 0) ...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter championship
Second division
Highfield v Whitehaven (7 0) ...

FREESTYLE SKIING

PIANCAVALLO, Italy: World Cup: Men: Aerials: 1, C Rijavec (Austria) 238.79pts; 2, R Cobbing (GB) 218.79; 3, A Blanc (Fr) 198.48; 4, A Capicik (Can) 196.45; 5, K Feddersen (US) 194.25. World Cup positions: 1, Rijavec 176pts; 2, Feddersen 164; 3, V Vorobjov (Belo) 160. Women: Aerials: 1, C Brand (Switz) 175.40; 2, C Olivier (Can) 165.17; 3, K Marshall (Aus) 163.71; 4, S-H Lid (Nor) 156.84; 5, K Kuster (Switz) 155.63. World Cup positions: 1, Brand 196; 2, Lid 188; 3, Olivier 184.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Durham 5 Edinburgh 5.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools championship: Renny Cup: Final: M Borwick (Radley) bt F Roumani (Marlborough) 15-3, 8-15, 15-11, 9-15, 15-11.

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Newbridge 23 Newport 12. Second division: Penarth 17 Aberavon 33

CLUB MATCHES: Moseley 40 Greater Birmingham 34, Plymouth 21 Bridgwater and Albion 12

McEWAN'S INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Scotsh Exiles 41 North and Midlands 13.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Scottish Exiles	3	3	0	0	100	35	6
Edinburgh Dist.	3	1	2	0	48	43	4
North and Midlands	4	1	1	2	69	84	3
Glasgow Dist	3	1	0	2	51	69	2
South	3	0	1	2	35	70	1

SKIING

ALTA BADIA, Italy: World Cup: Men: Giant slalom: A Tomba (It) 2min 17.35sec (1:08.17, 1:09.18); 2, U Kaelin (Switz) 2.17.80 (1:09.17, 1:08.63); 3, C Mayer (Austria) 2:17.98 (1:09.70, 1:08.28); 4, K-A Aamodt (Nor) 2:18.58 (1:09.81, 1:08.77); 5, H C Strand Nilsen (Nor) 2:19.20 (1:10.16, 1:09.04); 6, M Girardelli (Lux) 2:19.30 (1:10.45, 1:08.85). World Cup positions: Giant slalom: 1, Aamodt 190pts; 2, M Von Gruenigen (Switz) 180; 3, Kaelin 175. Overall: 1, Tomba 550pts; 2, Aamodt 302; 3, Von Gruenigen 294.

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: King's Cup: Quarter-finals: T Pichit (Thai) bt M Bennett (Wales) 5-2; B Snaddon (Scot) bt S Suwannagorn 5-3; N Noppachorn (Thai) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-3, J Wattana (Thai) bt C Wai Tat (Malaysia). Semi-finals: Snaddon bt Wattana 6-1; Noppachorn bt Pichit 6-3.

TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: M Maleeva (Bul) bt S Bentley (Surrey) 7-5, 6-2. K Hand (Berks) bt L Austin (Sussex) 6-2, 6-2. Final: Maleeva bt Hand 6-4, 6-3.

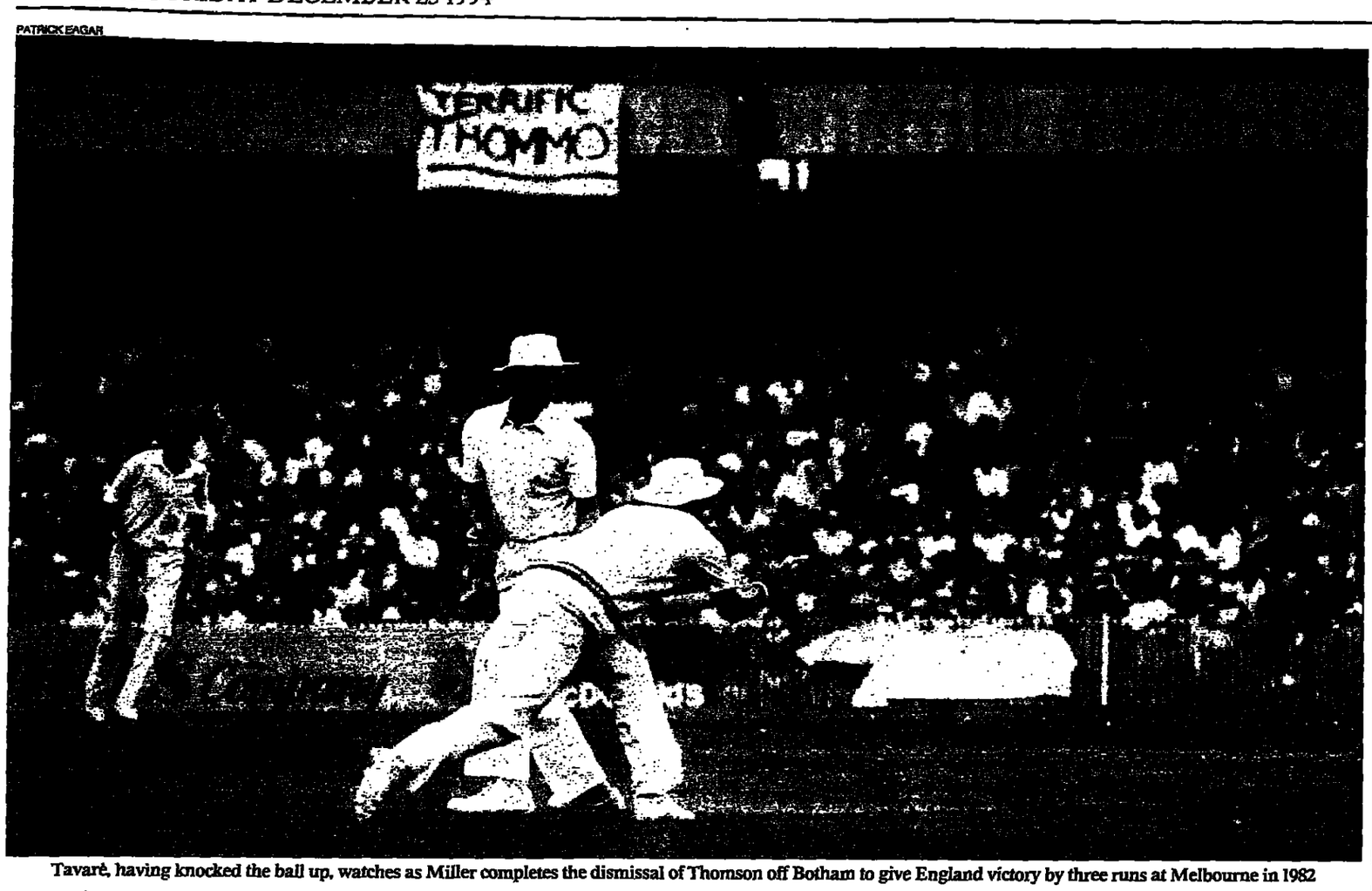
TABLE TENNIS

WORLD RANKINGS: Men: 1, J-M Saive (Bel), 2, Wang Tao (China); 3, J-O Waldner (Swe); 4, P Karlsson (Swe); Ma Wenge (China); 6, J-P Gatien (Fr); 7, Z Primorac (Cro); Kim Taek-Soo (S Kor); 9, J Rosskopf (Ger); 10, Li Gun-Seng (N Kor); 11, A Grubba (Pol); 12, Liu Guoliang (China). Women: 1, Deng Yaping (China); 2, Qiao Hong (China); 3, G Jun (US); 4, Chai Po Wa (HK); 5, Chen Zhe (China); 6, Wang Chen (China); 7, C Koyama (Japan); 8, Lu Wei (China); 9, Tang Weiyi (China); 10, Li Bun-Hui (N Kor); 11, Chen Jing (Taiwan); 12, Yu Sun-Bok (N Kor).

THE TIMES
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هكذا من الأصل

PATRICK EAGAR



Tavaré, having knocked the ball up, watches as Miller completes the dismissal of Thomson off Botham to give England victory by three runs at Melbourne in 1982

Test arena where champions thrive

BY SIMON WILDE

MELBOURNE Cricket Ground (MCG) makes special demands of international players, demands that are unrivalled by any other ground in the world. It is such a vast amphitheatre — capable of holding far more than 100,000 people — and so steeped in history that each performer is challenged to overcome a loss of personal identity. If he fails to do so, he will fail; it is as simple as that.

Generally speaking, only the great perform well here. S. F. Barnes, by taking five wickets in his first 11 overs, turned a series in 1911; as did Bradman, with 270 runs in the second innings, in 1937. Botham took the wicket — via the hands of Tavaré and Miller — that won the match by three runs in 1982, and took five more on the first day four years later to help clinch the Ashes.

It is their like who have coped best with the roars of the crowd, they who have been least concerned with the ground's illustrious past, for the MCG is the place where Test cricket began, in 1877. Australia are, this week, playing here for the 87th time, and England for the fiftieth.

The fact that the Melbourne Test has, for years, been associated with the Christmas period, only further encourages thoughts of matches — and Christmases — past. The first English team to visit Australia reached Melbourne dock on Christmas Eve in 1861. They were greeted by a crowd of 3,000, paraded through the city before cheering crowds and treated to the first of many champagne breakfasts. They were so popular they had to go out into the bush to practise.

Sixteen years later, when England and Australia contested the first two Test matches in history, the visitors' fortunes were somewhat different. They reached Melbourne with just 11 fit men — their wicketkeeper was languishing in a New Zealand jail after a pub brawl over a bet — and they were held in such low regard by their hosts that they were advised to bring only their strongest side in future. Some things never change.

The team that copes best with MCG's peculiar pressures over the next few days will probably win. Just how great these pressures can be was illustrated during the Centenary Test in 1977, when hundreds of former players were among the crowd. Australia collapsed in their first innings for 138, England for 95, before taking the match into a fifth, thrilling, day.

With this example in mind, England need not feel that they are bound to come off worse. Except for a lean spell between the world wars, they have shared the Melbourne spoils, and in a World Series Cup match on the ground ten days ago, kept their heads to beat Australia A.

Nor can Australia's batsmen look forward to playing at Melbourne, where a troublesome pitch has led to low-scoring matches dominated by swing and seam bowling. The last Test team to total 400 there was India, in 1985. Australia last did so in 1983, although that has not stopped them winning the last four matches to be resolved.

David Boon has just two half-centuries to show from 17 Test innings at Melbourne and Steve Waugh one from 13. Mark Taylor, the sort of grafter that the MCG rewards, has five from nine and an average of 57.

Members of the England party possess little Test form on the ground — only Gooch, who averages 48 from six innings, has played there more than once — except for their enigmatic showing four years ago. Ahead on points going into the second innings, they collapsed from 103 for one to 150 all out, and lost with ease. Their destroyer was Bruce Reid, the left-arm seamer, who took 13 wickets in the match.

Since 1985, only one spinner, Shane Warne, has taken four wickets in an innings of a Melbourne Test. He claimed seven for 52 as West Indies unexpectedly collapsed on the final day two years ago. Afterwards, Richie Richardson, their captain, brushed aside suggestions that Warne was a problem. "I don't think our batsmen are afraid of him," he said. "We respect him as a Test player, but he's not a worry."

England might do well to take a similarly unruffled attitude, both about Victoria's most celebrated player — and its famous old ground.

MELBOURNE TEST DETAILS

England v Australia

Results: England won 18, Australia 24, drawn 7. Records (England first): Highest totals: 589 (1911-12), 604 (1936-37). Lowest totals: 61 (1901-02 and 1903-04), 104 (1878-77). Highest innings: 200 W R Hammond (1928-29), 307 R M Cowper (1965-66). Best bowling: 8-68 W Rhodes (1903-04), 9-121 A A Mailey (1920-21).

Double blow for New Zealanders

THE New Zealand cricket team had a bad day on its tour of South Africa yesterday. The three-day match against Boland, its last before the second Test match, in Cape Town, was abandoned because the umpires declared the pitch to be too dangerous, and Dion Nash, its leading fast bowler, was ruled out of the remainder of the tour.

Twenty-two wickets had fallen on the opening day's play of the match in Paarl on Wednesday, and only one over was bowled yesterday when Cyril Mitchley and Brian Jerling, the umpires, decided to call the match off.

The fifth ball of the day, bowled by Simon Doull, rose sharply off a length and hit Andrew Wylie on the visor. Wylie edged the next ball to Lee Germon behind the stumps and the umpires then led the players off the field. Mitchley said: "We had no choice. In the interests of the players' safety, the game could not be continued. There was excessive and unpredictable bounce and also excessive lateral movement."

Ken Rutherford, the New Zealand captain, whose side are 1-0 ahead in the three-Test series, said: "I'm very disappointed. In fact, I'm angry. The second Test starts in three days' time and this has seriously affected our preparation. We've just finished a one-day series so we badly need some first-class cricket to try to get back into the right mode."

Nash, who has been signed by Middlesex as their overseas player for next summer, has been suffering from a persistent side strain that has failed to heal since he injured it during the first Test. The New Zealanders will not send for a replacement as Danny Morrison, the fast bowler, joined the party on Tuesday.

Curtly Ambrose is fit to return for a busy schedule with West Indies next year. Ambrose missed West Indies' recent tour of India because of a shoulder injury that developed at the end of his county season with Northamptonshire.

The Antigua fast bowler said: "I have just completed a two-week trial with the Leeward Islands. I have done my fair share of bowling and I am fine, although it was hard getting started after a long lay-off."

The West Indies tour New Zealand next month, then Australia visit the Caribbean in March. West Indies then fly straight to England for a six-Test tour.

SPORTS DIARY

Williams on verge of signing Coulthard

DAVID COULTHARD, the highly-rated Scottish driver, last night appeared to be on the verge of signing a new contract with the Williams Formula One motor racing team (Oliver Holt writes). After weeks of uncertainty, which culminated in Williams being given the right to Coulthard's contract over McLaren, both the team and Coulthard's representatives were optimistic that his position would be resolved in the near future. If it is, he will be Damon Hill's partner for Williams-Renault next season.

Any announcement regarding Coulthard's future will inevitably trigger fresh speculation about the destination of Nigel Mansell, the 1992 world champion, who is competing with the Scot, 23, for the vacant Williams seat. With Johnny Herbert likely to be announced as Michael Schumacher's partner at Benetton and Ferrari apparently happy to retain Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger for a third season, Mansell's only prospect of a top drive seems to rest with McLaren.

Boardman challenge

CYCLING: Chris Boardman, the Olympic and double world champion, will race Tony Rominger, of Switzerland, the world one-hour record-holder, in a 4,000 metres pursuit on the opening day of the Superdrome meeting at Manchester on February 11 and 12 (Peter Bryan writes). Rominger, beaten into third place by Boardman in the Tour de France prologue time trial this year, later retired from the race. In the autumn, however, he dominated the end-of-season time trials and twice beat the one-hour record.

☐ Sean Yates, 34, who, like Boardman, wore the yellow jersey of race leader in the Tour de France, has won the 1994 Bidlake Memorial Plaque. The award, one of the sport's most prestigious, was in recognition of both his individual successes and "unselfish support for team-mates".

Woodhall on home soil

BOXING: Richie Woodhall, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, has been guaranteed home advantage for his bout against Silvio Branco, of Italy, for the vacant European title. Mickey Duff, Woodhall's manager and promoter, plans to stage the contest in the Midlands at the end of January. Woodhall, of Telford, is unbeaten in 18 contests. Branco, a strong opponent, has lost one of 24.

☐ Alfred Kotey, the London-based Ghanaian, will defend his World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title against Drew Docherty, of Scotland, in Glasgow on February 17.

Betts let off with fine

RUGBY LEAGUE: Denis Betts, the Wigan and Great Britain second-row forward, has escaped suspension for being sent off, for the first time in his career, in the second half of the Regal Trophy third-round victory at Hull on Sunday. A disciplinary committee, which met in Leeds yesterday, ruled that his dismissal had been sufficient punishment. But Betts, who was given a personal hearing, was fined £150 for being aggressive to Russell Smith, the referee, after he had been given his marching orders after a tackle on Jez Cassidy, one of the home forwards.

Mair takes festive title

TENNIS: Michele Mair, from Edinburgh, won the British Women's Tennis Association Christmas tournament with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Kaye Hand, the defending champion, in the final at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. Mair, the third seed, who celebrates her 23rd birthday tomorrow, began the match slowly and trailed 2-4 before winning four successive games to take the opening set. Hand, based in Berkshire and the runner-up in the national championships last month, never gave up, but was unable to prevent Mair from wrapping up the second set after 84 minutes.

Borwick rallies

RACKETS: Malcolm Borwick, of Radley, the second seed, staged a spectacular recovery to win the Renny Cup, the second-string event of the public schools championships, at Queen's Club. Borwick trailed 5-11 in the final game against Fahad Roumani, of Marlborough, who was unseeded. Roumani had produced a string of fluent winning shots. However, on the brink of victory, he became more tentative and made several unforced errors. Borwick fought his way back into the match and the Radleian took the game without losing another point.

Wales intent on staging World Cup

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) confirmed yesterday its candidature to host the 1999 Rugby World Cup (RWC), though it admits that competition, from France, Australia and England, will be stiff. But even were an English bid to prove successful, the WRU believes that a verbal agreement between the four home unions would allow it to stage the 1999 final.

The WRU is drawing up plans to extend its national stadium to a capacity of between 65,000 and 70,000. The hope is that it can do so at its existing Cardiff Arms Park site. Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the WRU who also chairs the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), voiced his confidence that the Welsh bid will be a serious contender when the IRFB votes in March.

Bid documents have yet to be distributed and will take into account the likely acceptance of 20 competing countries in the 1999 finals, rather than the 16 invited in 1987, and who qualified for 1991 and 1995. "We are certain Australia are bidding; as are France and Wales, and I am told England are bidding, too," Pugh said.

But he added that, in 1988, the home unions agreed that, if Twickenham were to stage the 1991 final, then Cardiff would perform the same service when the tournament next returned to Britain. Although New Zealand are not believed to be in the equation, Australia would have the use of the facilities being built to host the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, while France are constructing stadiums for the 1998 football World Cup.

"There is stiff competition, but the decision will be taken on rugby grounds as to who puts together the best package," Pugh said. That would take into account not only rugby facilities and the supporting logistical structure but crowd numbers likely to attend, which, Pugh suggested, in Australia might be fewer for the smaller rugby countries than in Wales, where rugby union is the national game.

"I think that, if France were successful, it would be on the basis of all the matches being played there," Pugh said. "There has been discussion of some matches being played in Italy, but that is unlikely because one of the bases for the bids would be avoidance of more than one jurisdiction." For the same reason, a repeat of the 1991 scenario will be avoided.

Wales's bid would benefit, too, from the work already done by the contingency committee that was established when there was some prospect of the 1995 tournament not taking place in South Africa.

Torvill and Dean top television bill

John Goodbody finds Britain's Olympic ice dancers overcoming competition from football

THE Olympic performance of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean dominated the television viewing figures of sport in 1994, with the second-highest audience rating achieved for a sports event in Britain.

With just seven days to go before the final rankings are completed, football has dominated the figures, supplying 14 of the 20 most popular sports programmes on BBC and ITV.

However, even the 1994 figures for the national game are dwarfed by the 23.95 million people who watched Torvill and Dean in the ice dancing at the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, where the pair finished third. This audience has been exceeded in Britain only by the 25.2 million who saw England play West Germany in 1990, when both channels screened the World Cup semi-final.

Despite the absence of teams from the home countries, the 1994 World Cup finals still attracted huge audiences. Usually when both channels screen the same sports event, the BBC has a 2-1 advantage in viewing figures, but this year, for the Brazil v Italy final, the BBC's lead was more pronounced. A total of 13.40 million people watched on BBC and 4.10 million on ITV. This is largely explained by the scheduling of the "Three Tenors" concert on BBC before the match.

However, Jonathan Martin, the head of BBC sport, said yesterday: "I like to think that they [the figure] also reflected the efforts of the team in the United States. Most of the critical reports about the television coverage were positive for us." Martin thinks that football has come back into favour with the public after the Eighties, which witnessed the tragedies of Hillsborough, Heysel and Bradford.

"It was fashionable in the Seventies to watch football. In the Nineties, it has become fashionable again, with bishops and lords watching *Match of the Day*," he said.

The figures must be interpreted with care. Winter is usually better than the summer for high figures and evenings better than afternoons. The figures published also are the *average* viewing audience, not the peak. This helps an event like the Grand National, which lasts only a few minutes, and handicaps a sport like cricket or snooker, which last several hours.

Martin points out that snooker retains "a solid interest", pointing to the peak audience at the world championship final of 13.4 million and an average of 8.1 million.

Trevor East, the new controller of ITV sport, is not concerned that rugby union does not get huge audiences. ITV will be screening the 1995 World Cup in South Africa exclusively, and, last June, only 3.0 million and 2.34 million people viewers in Britain watched the two South Africa v England matches. However, what interests ITV is that the tournament is very attractive to their advertisers because such a high percentage of the viewers are categorised as ABC1 men.

"We are planning more than 60 hours of coverage, with 21-24 live matches, for next summer," East said. "Apart from the anomaly of Torvill and Dean, I don't think even the BBC could have predicted the top viewing figures, underlining ITV's philosophy of majoring on events that deliver to a schedule."



THE TIMES
20p
ON BOXING DAY
SPORT
Why did numbers such as 0, 12 and 501 hold particular significance for sport in 1994?
Simon Barnes explains all
Other national broadsheets are not publishing on Boxing Day. *The Times* is. Place your order with your newsagent now

Open invitation for Palmer

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE affection in which the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews holds Arnold Palmer was emphasized again yesterday when it announced it was altering one of the exemption categories for the Open Championship next July.

This change seems designed to encourage Palmer to return to the famous Scottish course where he competed in his first Open in 1960 — and finished second to Kel Nagle.

The Royal and Ancient has never forgotten that Palmer almost single-handedly saved the Open by his presence 34 years ago when he was at the peak of his powers and by his victories at Royal Birkdale in 1961 and Royal Troon in 1962. Down the years, it has bent over backwards to accommodate Palmer and it has done so again now.

Under the previous rule, Palmer would not have been exempt from qualifying for the 1995 Open and he would almost certainly have declined to compete. However, the amendment offers an exemption to all past Open champions who are 65 or under on the final day of the competition. Palmer will not be 66 until September.

The prize-money at the 124th Open will be £1,250,000, an increase of £150,000 on this year. The first prize has risen by £15,000 to £125,000, and any player making the cut will receive £5,000, 25 per cent more than this year.

"We believe it is important to spread the prize-money as widely as possible," Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said. "It is a philosophy that not only recognises the cost of competing in the Championship for overseas players, but also offers tangible support to our far-reaching exemption policy. There is no doubt that these two elements are still the most effective way of maintaining the international strength of the field, which is what sets the Open apart."

For the first time, exemptions are to be given to the senior British Open champion, who is Tom Wargo, of the United States, and the present European amateur champion, Stephen Gallacher, the extremely promising young Scot, who is Bernard Gallacher's nephew.

To encompass these additions, the field will be increased to 159.

Brazil welcome back European counterparts after years in exile

Yugoslavia return to international fold



David Miller, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, finds the most gifted of football nations meeting again

Brazil and Yugoslavia, the two countries possessing the richest seams of talent in football for the past half-century, meet here in a seasonal international match this afternoon at the Olympic Stadium. Each has something to prove.

Brazil, the winners of the World Cup, for the fourth time, at Los Angeles in July, have their first opportunity to remind everyone that their triumph then was a true reflection of their ability. Yugoslavia, the name retained by the combined republics of Serbia and Montenegro, hope to reveal that the political and religious ravages of war have little reduced their panache on the football field.

When the United Nations recently lifted international sanctions and Fifa, the world governing body of football, removed suspension, Yugoslavia immediately arranged their first matches since losing 2-0 to Holland in March 1992. That was immediately before the European championship, in which they were forcibly replaced by Denmark, the eventual winners.

Sporting friendships endure, however; Brazil, then Argentina next Tuesday, were eager to accommodate Miljan Miljanic, the renowned general manager of Yugoslavia. The squad of 20 that arrived yesterday includes nine of those who would have played in Sweden, having eliminated Denmark, Austria and Northern Ireland. The only, and inevitable, absentees are four Bosnian Muslims and two Croatians.

There is still a formidable team available to Slobodan Santrac, the new coach and former centre forward of OFK Belgrade, who holds the Yugoslav league scoring record of 216 goals.

Regular finalists or semi-finalists in past European championships and World Cups, Yugoslavia often tended, ultimately, to under-perform, but will now be motivated by a sense of international ostracism.

Twelve of the selected squad — from which Lekovic, the Kilmarnock goalkeeper, and Petric, the Dundee United central defender, have withdrawn — are with foreign clubs, and the following are likely to play: Djukic, the *libero* of Deportivo La Coruña; Dubajic, VfB Stuttgart's stopper; in midfield, Stojkovic, of Nagoya Grampus Eight (formerly Gary Lineker's club), Jugovic and Mihajlovic, of Sampdoria, and Jokanovic, of Real Oviedo; in attack, Savicevic, of AC Milan, a leading light of the 1990 World Cup side, and Mijatovic, of Valencia.

"We have not forgotten how to play," Miljanic promised here. There are, indeed, more influential players and coaches around the world from the former Yugoslavia than from any other country.

How much will Brazil have forgotten since July? Not much. Although Taffarel, in goal, Rai, in midfield, and Romario and Bebeto, the attackers based in Spain, are absent, eight of the team which beat Italy are expected to be named by Mario Zagalo. Viola, from Corinthians in São Paulo, who made such an electric impact on the last 15 minutes of extra time as substitute for Zinho in the final in Los Angeles, will have the chance to establish serious rivalry to Bebeto for a place in the 1998 finals in France.





Jugovic, left, of Sampdoria, and Savicevic, of AC Milan, add their experiences in Italy to Yugoslavia's team



Mihajlovic: midfield

Viola, whose erupting dribbles so nearly reduced weary Italy to capitulation before that wretched penalty shoot-out, has not scored for Corinthians for two months, a failure that contributed to Corinthians' recent loss to Palmeiras in the two-leg final play-offs of the oddly-formulated national championship. The bad-tempered 1-1 draw last weekend, in which Branco, the Corinthians left back, and Zinho and Mazinho, also of Corinthians, were sent off, followed a 3-1 victory by Palmeiras in the first leg.

Lingering ill-will from that encounter produced a mood of silent resentment at the airport when the national team assembled on Monday, but training has been uneventful, punctuated by Christmas shopping. Partnering Viola in attack, in place of Romario, is Ronaldo, 18, who scored 50 goals for Cruzeiro last season before moving to PSV Eindhoven.

In the frenzied national debate that accompanies every Brazil selection, the exclusion of Ronaldo by Carlos Alberto Parreira, the much-criticised coach in the World Cup, was hotly disputed. Even Parreira's mother was interviewed on television and roundly stated that Ronaldo should have been playing. So much for maternal loyalty.

> 'Yugoslavia often tended to underperform, but will now be motivated by a sense of international ostracism'

Parreira is now busy in Spain. Zagalo, his assistant — the man who had, at the last minute, replaced João Saldanha as coach to the inimitable 1970 champions in Mexico — is once again in charge, and continuing to carry some of the criticism levelled at the 1994 champions for being "negative".

That criticism was unfair. Parreira had no Pelé, Tostão, Jairzinho or Gerson, as in 1970, when he was assistant to Zagalo. One of the critics in the United States was Pelé, who this week was appointed Minister of Sport by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Brazil's president-elect. So Zagalo's position as leader for 1998 must rest uneasily; especially if Ricardo Teixeira, the son-in-law of João Havelange, the president of Fifa, is not re-elected as head of the Brazilian football federation next year.

The truth is that Brazil encountered more defensive, negative opposition in the United States than any other team, as all were intent on blocking them. They were, relatively, the most positive of all. Parreira and Zagalo could be considered to have excelled.

Leading article, page 13

City follow Rösler's lead

BY PETER BALL

THE German connection continues to pay dividends for Manchester City. Most of the attention this week was concentrated on the arrival of the dark, ear-ringed, Maurizio Gaudino, an unlikely sounding German if ever there was one. But, when the action started, Uwe Rösler was playing the lead once more.

Rösler's goal against Newcastle United set City on their way to a fifth-round Coca-Cola Cup tie at Crystal Palace. He has now scored eight goals in 14 appearances, three of them after coming on as substitute.

When he has been Walsh's partner in a front pair, rather than the system of three strikers that Horton has used in recent weeks, the return has been even more profitable. Walsh and Rösler claiming ten goals in their eight starts together. The manager has got the message. "Playing the three has not been successful: it left us lop-sided, so I left Quinn out," he said.

When Quinn appeared for the last half hour, once fatigue got the better of Gaudino on his debut, Rösler dropped back, making an equally important contribution to the team effort. "I asked Uwe to go and defend for me. Did he?" Horton asked rhetorically. He then answered his own question: "Cor, dear. He does play with a big heart."

Gaudino has something to live up to, but had a satisfactory start to his loan period from Eintracht Frankfurt until lack of match fitness took its toll. "I think Maurizio found out what English football is about, the pace of it," Horton said. "But I thought for an hour he did very well."

The result left Newcastle, the team that, a few weeks ago, everyone was trying to catch, with one win in the past eight games and looking fragile. "We lacked confidence, it was disappointing," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, reflected. "We're mentally a little bit dead at the moment. We are missing players, but the players I put out there tonight are more than good enough. To say we are going through an indifferent spell is being kind. I know the players are there, but players have got to want to play.

"They have got to want the football, they have got to be stronger, character-wise. On a night like that, I was looking for a few more players to come and want the football. We just looked like 11 individuals. They worked harder than us."

☐ Ian Taylor yesterday became Brian Little's first signing since taking over as manager of Aston Villa when he moved to Villa Park in a £1 million deal that took Guy Whittingham, valued at £750,000, to Sheffield Wednesday in part exchange.

REVISED DRAW

FIFTH ROUND
Bolton Wanderers v Norwich City
Crystal Palace v Manchester City
Liverpool v Arsenal
Swindon Town v Millwall
Ties being played on January 11

Guiseley turn to Watson

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

GUISELEY'S rapid rise has taken them to the FA Vase, the FA Trophy semi-final, the FA Cup first round and, at present, third place in the Northern Premier League. So the departure of Ray McHale, the manager, who left them this week to rejoin Scarborough, came as a surprise to Gary Douglas, the chairman.

"Ray lives in Bridlington, next door to Scarborough, and he's always been popular with the local press and supporters," Douglas said. "He told me about six weeks ago that one of the local press had told him that the manager's job was on the line. He called me last week to say that a reporter had called to say Scarborough were after him. Their chairman then rang me and asked if he could speak to him. They were very honourable in the way they did it, but I still didn't think Ray would go."

Douglas moved swiftly to give the job to Garry Watson, McHale's assistant, until "after Christmas and new year when we will sit down and talk about the way things are going". With the club in the grip of "the worst round of suspensions, injuries and flu" Douglas has known, Watson has a taxing task over the holiday programme.

Guiseley's prospects of promotion to the Vauxhall Conference are hampered by the lack of space to develop their Nethermoor ground. The club plans to submit an application to develop a new site next month, aware that it is on green-belt land and thus runs a risk of referral to the Department of the Environment. If all goes well, Guiseley would move in in 1996.

Three miles away from Guiseley, in Bradford, Thackley's hopes of putting together a run in the Vase, to emulate those that brought Guiseley to prominence, were ended in a third-round second replay by Cammell Laird on Monday night. A crowd of 126 braved atrocious weather to see the visitors from Birkenhead recover from going a goal behind to Stuart Taylor in the first minute to win 2-1 with goals from Jimmy Kelly.

Thackley finished runners-up on goal difference to Stocksbridge Park Steels in the Northern Counties East League, but lost Warren Rayner, their manager, because he felt the club lacked ambition.

Matters have been forced for Thackley by their league demanding a perimeter fence around the football section of the 7½-acre site that the club owns. Although work is awaiting the outcome of a proposed all-weather development with Bradford women's hockey club, Thackley intend to add a 250-seat stand.

Meanwhile, the Horsefall athletic stadium in Bradford is being fitted for the return next season of Bradford Park Avenue, who are sharing the Batley rugby league ground. The reformed club lies third in the Bass North West Counties League and hopes to reclaim the place in the Northern Premier League lost when it folded in 1974.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

JUTKA

(b) In southern India, a light two-wheeled vehicle drawn by a horse, from the Hindi *jhatka* a jerk, jūt, lurch.
"Jutka is the native cab of Madras, and of Mofussil towns in that Presidency; a conveyance only to be characterised by the epithet ramshackle. It consists of a sort of box with Venetian windows, on two wheels, and drawn by a miserable pony."

LUFTMENSCH

(c) Also *luftmensh*, an impractical visionary, Yiddish from the German *luft* air + *mensch* person.
"The prototype of the luftmensch was one Leone da Modena, who listed his skills and cited no fewer than twenty-six professions. Why would so accomplished a man be classified as a luftmensch? Because out of all twenty-six he barely made a living."

NANCY DAWSON

(a) A sailor's dance or song, also an effeminate boy, a nancy-boy.
"Nancy Dawson, a name for a molly, an effeminate youth, apathetic, &c. The original Nancy Dawson was a noted prostitute, on whom there is a song still current among sailors."

HOOŞHTAH

(b) A shout of encouragement or rebuke at a camel, echoic, also *hushdur*.
"The string of five camels were water-swollen, so that they looked like five great footballs set up on sticks. One by one Quinn and Lawler hooshta'ed them to the ground."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rxf forces imminent mate.

Second record tumbles to Tomba

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALBERTO TOMBA, the Italian skier, maintained his remarkable winning streak with a superb performance in the World Cup giant slalom race in Alta Badia, Italy, yesterday. It was Tomba's third victory in three days, a feat never achieved before, and followed successive wins in the opening four slalom races of the season, which was also a record in that discipline.

"This is the greatest day of my career," Tomba said. "It is worth at least an Olympic gold medal."

Tomba shared the lead with Urs Kaelin, of Switzerland, after the first run in 1min 09.17sec, but pushed himself to the limit in the second to record a combined time of 2min 17.35sec. Kaelin was second in 2min 17.80sec, with Christian Mayer, of Austria, third, 0.16sec adrift.

Cheered on by his Italian supporters in the Dolomite resort, Tomba, 28, celebrated his victory by performing a somersault and then kissed his dog after earning his twelfth World Cup giant slalom win, which was made easier when Kaelin lost precious time after slipping midway through the second leg.



Tomba: unstoppable

Steve Locher, of Switzerland, who won a World Cup giant slalom in Alta Badia last year, was third after the first leg, but fell in the second. Mayer, fourth after the first leg, put on a fine show in the second, recording the next fastest time behind Tomba.

A jubilant Tomba said he had felt confident of winning because of his form in finishing fourth in a giant slalom in the French resort of Tignes earlier this month. "Tignes proved to me I could win this event," he said. "I was just waiting for it to happen."

He has now registered 38 career World Cup victories and leads the overall standings with 550 points. Kjetil Andre Aamodt, the Norwegian who finished fourth, is second on 302, with Michael Von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, third on 294.

Kaelin, whose only World Cup victory was in a giant slalom in 1989, was happy simply to have finished the second leg. "I wasted my chance to win when I nearly fell, so I have to be satisfied that I finished the leg, let alone finished in second place," he said.

The race also saw the best performances of the season by the veterans, Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, and Paul Accola, of Switzerland.

Girardelli, five times the overall winner of the World Cup title, was ninth after the first leg, but had a marvellous second run. Accola, the overall winner of the 1992 World Cup, rose from sixteenth place to tenth after a fine second leg.

Results, page 38

RADIO CHOICE

Angelic food for thought

How the Angels Fell. *Radio 3, 10.45pm.*

If you still are not sated with Christmas card angels, here is a seasonable documentary for you — everything you have always wanted to know about these winged messengers/intermediaries but have felt too sceptical to ask. David Goodman, the presenter, does not reveal where he stands on angelology, but he does offer a reasonable solution to the medieval mystery about how many angels can dance on the point of a needle. Also, not too cynically, he wonders aloud why, if angels are incorporeal, they should eat, and who does the catering. This last assumes that the three visitors fed by Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12) were angels, not men. If you did not know about the angel with 8,786 eyes, you will after tonight.

Handel's Messiah. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

The oratorio we hear tonight is Handel's all right — but with an interesting difference. It is *Messiah* seen through the eyes of Mozart. Mozart was present at a Mannheim performance of it in 1777, at which the audience yawned prodigiously. So much so that the second half had to be abandoned. Twelve years later, Mozart reorchestrated sections of the score for its Vienna premiere. These changes were intended for Vienna only, but 12 years after the death of Handel, the amended score was published. And this is the *Messiah* that we shall be hearing tonight, in a performance recorded earlier this month at London's Festival Hall.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes **6.30** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lynn Parsons, including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Goodier **4.00** Nicky Campbell with Drivetime, including at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Pete Tong's Christmas Mix **10.00** John Peel's Festive 50 **1.00am** Mark Tonderai

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **8.45** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford's Christmas Concert: live from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Scoop! Derek Jameson tells the story of Beethoven's life and death **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Geoff Eales at the piano **9.00** Listen to the Band: The Sellers Engineering Band and the Honley Ladies' Choir under Phillip McCann **10.00** Ian Anderson with the Radio 2 Arts Programme from Edinburgh **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes in Concert **1.00** Colin Berry

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55** and **7.55** *Racing Preview* **8.35** *The Magazine*, incl at **10.35** Euronews **11.00** News; Chain Reaction: science and technology **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck, with Liz Barclay **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra, including at **7.20** sport **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **9.05** Now the Good News **10.05** Stop Press, with John Diamond **10.35** Financial Week, presented by Heather Payton **11.00** Night Extra, including at **11.45** The Financial World Tonight **Midnight** Test Match Special. Australia v England on the first day of the second Test

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** Fruhmagazin **5.00** Newshour **6.00** Morgenmagazin **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** *The Thirteen Clocks* **7.30** Dead Man's Chest **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Global Concerns **9.30** On the Move **9.45** Sport **10.00** News **10.01** Focus on Faith **10.30** Joan Baez **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **12.00** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Dead Man's Chest **12.45** Sport **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** *The Thirteen Clocks* **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** News **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** Business **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Kaleidoskop **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** EuroRegions **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** People and Politics **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Multitrack **12.00** News **12.15** Family Affair **12.30** From the Weeklies **12.45** Learning World **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Worldbrief **1.45** Jazz Now and Then **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Vintage Chart Show **4.00** Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Malpas, incl at **11.00** festive music from the Joyful Company of Singers **1.00am** André Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Paul Coyle **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Paul Coyle **11.00** Nick Abbot **2.00-6.00am** Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather **7.00 On Air:** Anon (Cypriot Advent antiphon: O Emanuel rex noster): Wagner (Prelude, - Lohengrin); Corelli (Sonata in D); **8.05** Handel (Amen, - Messiah); Chopin (Scherzo No 2 in B flat minor, Op 31); Rachmaninov, orch Respighi (Five Etudes-tableaux)
9.00 Composers of the Week: Moeran and Warlock. Paul Hindmarsh presents Warlock (Thou gav'st me leave to kiss); Moeran (Overture for a Masque); Warlock, arr Payne (Six Songs: Aspects of Love and Contentment); Moeran (Sinfonietta); Warlock (The Lady's Birthday)
10.00 Musical Encounters from Glasgow with Mary Miller. *Artist of the Week*: John Wallace, trumpet. Tippett (Fanfare from the Four Corners); **10.10** Debussy (Cello Sonata); Leopold Mozart (Trumpet Concerto); **11.00** Haydn (Symphony No 96 in D, Miracle); Petr Eben (Golden Window, Windows, after Marc Chagall)
12.00 Voices: *A gastronomic feast in song* (r)
1.00pm Bach and Sons: Timothy Roberts, fortepiano and clavichord, plays J.S. Bach
2.00 Youth Orchestras of the World: South African National Youth Orchestra under Omri Hadari
3.50 Emperor Quartet: Haydn (String Quartet in F); Shostakovich (String Quartet No 7) (r)
4.30 Songs of Winter: Traditional music from around the world for festivals and customs held during the winter months
5.00 The Music Machine: Byte the Music. Mike Edwards challenges the criticism that computer music is cold and mechanical
5.15 In Tune: Music, news and arts news with Richard Baker. Including Tchaikovsky (Waltz of the Snowflakes, The Nutcracker; Gregorian Chants: Florate; Ave Maria; Ecce Virgo); **6.30** Charpentier (Noëls sur les instruments); Massenet (The Last Sleep of the Virgin)
7.30 Philharmonia Beethoven Cycle: Presented by Anthony Sargent, with contributions from the players and conductor. The Philharmonia Orchestra under Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat; Symphony No 5 in C minor)
8.55 Utopia and Other Places: Richard Eyre, director of the National Theatre, reads excerpts from his autobiography
9.15 Hummel Quartets: The Salomon Quartet performs Hummel (String Quartet No 2 in G)
9.45 Not the Nine Lessons and Carols: The Taverner Choir, Consort and Players, together with Red Byrd and the Rose Consort of Viols perform a sequence of music by Tallis, Holborne, Gibbons and Handel, interspersed with country carols and biblical readings
10.45 Friday Feature: How the Angels Fell: See Choice
11.30-12.30am Midnight Oil: John Tilbury plays piano music by Cornelius Cardew, Michael Nyman and Mauricio Kagel

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: The gardener Penelope Hobhouse (r)
9.45 Radio World: Around the Wireless in 15 Minutes. Simon Fanshawe looks the daily schedules of radio stations around the world
10.00-10.30 News; One Born Every Minute (FM only): Jez Nelson meets a group of people who monitor farrowing sows around the clock in order to judge their happiness
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 Children's Radio 4 (LW only): Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White (5/7)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Kathryn Davies. Serial: The final part of *All the Nice Girls*
11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Kelvin Boot
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm The Food Programme: Derek Cooper is in Valpolicella, Italy **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Tusitala — The Teller of Tales: Kidnapped. *Across the Forth*, the final part of R.L. Stevenson's classic novel of adventure and friendship (r)
3.00 News; Anderson Country
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Tim Marlow visits Wolverhampton City Art Gallery
4.45 Short Story: Mole Cooks His Goose, by Sue Townsend. Adrian takes charge of the family's Christmas lunch. Read by Nicholas Barnes
5.00 PM, with Linda Lewis and Hugh Sykes **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places, presented by David Stafford
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers: Phil minds the baby
7.20 Handel's Messiah: Richard Baker introduces a performance of Handel's oratorio. With Judith Howarth, soprano, Ruby Philogene, contralto, Ian Bostridge, tenor, David Wilson-Johnson, bass; the London Choral Society and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Jane Glover. See Choice
10.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke
10.30 News
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Brazzaville Beach. Fiona Shaw reads the final part of William Boyd's story
11.00 Week Ending: The satirical sketch show with Sally Grace, Toby Longworth and Brian Bowles
11.25 Fourth Column: Alistair Beaton and guests take a sceptical look at Christmas. With Ian Hislop, Bill Tidy and *Times* columnist Lynne Truss
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** *Shipping* **12.43** As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2 RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. *Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey*

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DAY DECEMBER 23
RADIO CHOICE
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hought
WORLD SERVICE
CLASSIC FM
VIRGIN

Mystique disappears when you get close

You have to feel sorry for the condor of the Andes. The romantic image of soaring wings, lofty mountains and Simon and Garfunkel nose-flute music meshes quite badly with the real workaday life led by this enormous, pig-ugly carrion crow. As revealed last night in **Wildlife Showcase: Mountains of the Thunderer** (BBC 2), the mighty condor spends rather a lot of time with its head buried gorily in a sheep carcase. In flight this herald of the thunder dangles its weedy legs like Kermit the Frog; and on the ground this supreme master of the gales swaggers unattractively like a saddle-sore cowboy. Its face is wrinkled and extremely ugly, and if all this wasn't bad enough, its kids turn out precisely the same. In fact, it's worse than that. When the chicks go through the requisite ugly adolescent stage, they also look like the tipped-out contents of a vacuum-cleaner bag.

Mountains of the Thunderer gave us quite a few scenes with an adolescent condor chick — first grumping up and down, alone in its mountain hideaway, and then flinging itself on the floor when the parents arrived home with food, while batting them with its brown furry wings. Its behaviour brought quite strongly to mind Kevin, the new teenage Harry Enfield character who wears a baseball cap back to front and flails his arms while bellowing in a painful, half-broken voice, "You Are So Unfair!". This chick had a similar idea of injustice, perhaps. But like most teenagers, it still wouldn't fancy being thrown out of the nest before its wings were ready. In the condor's case, the prospect of jump-and-plummet is a literal one.

Mountains of the Thunderer strayed off the point a few times with other Peruvian and Patagonian animals doing other things (mating, mostly), but otherwise served up some useful stories. The eyes of the female condor are red, while the male's are green — which is one of those priceless facts that may come in handy over the festive season when mealtime intercourse is flagging. I give it to you as a present. A condor washes its feathers regularly, to keep itself in tip-top form — yet when its wings are wet it can't fly, so it's a bit stupid to do it. And, um, that's all I've got. The photography was astonishing, as usual — with particularly good shots of wind, which must be tricky.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Channel 4's *Witness* is turning into an unmissable series, and last night's **The Morehouse Men** took us inside a fascinating institution:Morehouse College in Atlanta, explained as "the only seat of higher education in the world dedicated to preparing African-American men for leadership and academic excellence". The use of the global comparison was symptomatic, of course. I mean, why would any other country "in the world" want to dedicate itself to the cause of African-Americans? But the ethos of Morehouse is *pride* — pride in its former alumni (notably Martin Luther King), pride in colour, in brothers — and pride on such a scale can get carried away.

An American student I once met in a ticket queue told me his subject was public speaking, and I was genuinely confused. Without studying something else, I thought, what can you possibly speak *about*? *The Morehouse Men* set me right in this heresy. Place any Morehouse man in a mortar-board with a lectern, and just watch him GO — especially if he's got some poetry by heart. "If YOU can keep your HEAD. When All Around (*Pause, drop volume*). Are losing theirs . . ." These guys could read the register of taxi-cab drivers and have their audience cheering for more. In the tradition of Southern preaching, anything repeated three times is automatically true.

Since *Morehouse Men* was narrated by one of the students (the charismatic Spencer Tolliver), it was unlikely to be critical. But director Sabita Kumari-Dass got inside the religious debate between Christian and Muslim, and also filmed initiation rituals which would presumably be closed to other documentary-makers, in particular a scary "Night of Consciousness". Touch each other like brothers, they were told. "AIN'T no funny business in this house!" yelled a brother. He repeated it. "AIN'T no funny business in this house!" And that was all. The viewer waited breathless for the third shoe to drop.

Things got quite emotional in the final part of **Finney** (ITV), and several important characters were killed in nasty ways reminiscent of the violent climax to *The Godfather*. In fact, there was rather a neat joke reference to *The Godfather* which unfortunately I failed to write down (it was a Geordie variant on the bit about the Corleone hitman "sleeping with the fishes", and involved a buttered smokie, I think). Anyway, the Simpsons and Finneys both suffered losses, but the central Finney (David Morrissey) wiped a small tear out of a baby-blue eye, and returned to the bosom of his family when all the carnage was over.

Finney was well written by David Kane, but its direction was also outstanding. Director David Hayman, who appeared on screen as the wicked McDade (bald head, tattoo behind ear, dark glasses), brought out excellent performances from Andy Serkis as Tom and Melanie Hill as Lena; and the tension rarely flagged over a six-week run. The prime ingredient was wit: wit obviously in the funny bits (especially any scene featuring a magnificent, patriarchal John Woodvine); but wit also in pulling surprises in a genre which customarily ignores the intelligence of the viewer. Along with the BBC's *Common as Muck*, it ranks, for me, as one of the drama hits of the year.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (70101)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (29683101)
9.05 Bucky O'Hare (r) (8014236) **9.30 Tom Alone** (r) (62472)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9699694) **10.05 Playdays** (s) (5981897)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday family magazine (s) (51946)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1088615) **12.05pm Pebble Mill.** Gloria Hunniford, Ross King, Alan Titchmarsh and guests celebrate the festive season (s) (6933762) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (14191236)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (82156)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (35374878)
1.50 The Great British Quiz. Philip Hayton presents the final of the general knowledge quiz (s) (35378694)
2.15 FILM: Miracle in the Wilderness (1991) starring Kris Kristofferson as a law-abiding settler whose family are kidnapped by an avenging Indian chief. Directed by Kevin James Dobson. (Ceefax) (1404743)
3.40 Barney's Christmas Surprise (r) (4656439) **3.45 TVK** (s) (2671588) **4.00 The New Yogi Bear Show** (r) (5783946) **4.10 Get Your Own Back.** Christmas edition (s) (5469878) **4.35 Record Breakers** (Ceefax) (s) (8903236)
5.00 Newsround (3512410) **5.10 Byker Grove.** Last episode. (Ceefax) (8096255)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (649255)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (694)
6.30 Regional news magazines (946)
7.00 The World's Strongest Man. The fourth heat of the contest from Sun City. (Ceefax) (4694)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. The team each choose a Christmas gift from the future. (Ceefax) (s) (830)
8.00 Christmas Good Fortune! Gloria Hunniford, Andi Peters and Juliet Morris with wonderful Christmas presents for some unsuspecting members of the public. (Ceefax) (s) (9236)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8255)



Al Pacino as Michael Corleone (9.30pm)

9.30 FILM: The Godfather Part III (1990) starring Al Pacino and Diane Keaton. Michael Corleone has now been irreparably corrupted by the power of his position and the deeds of the past. However his authority is under threat from an ambitious nephew (Andy Garcia). Directed by Francis Ford Coppola (52154120)
12.05am Simply Red - Live! Recorded in their home town of Manchester (s) (1306453) **Northern Ireland:** Glad Tidings.12.10am Inside Ulster News 12.15 Simply Red — Live 1.05-2.20 FILM: Phantom of Hollywood -
12.55 FILM: Phantom of Hollywood (1974) starring Jack Cassidy and Jackie Coogan. A masked monster goes on the rampage when his secret hideaway is threatened with redevelopment. Directed by Gene Levitt (1762873)
2.10 Weather (7996892). Ends at **2.15**

BBC2

7.00am Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (4870149) **7.05 The Family Ness** (r) (4862120) **7.10 Toxic Crusaders** (r) (9828304) **7.30 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (83014)
8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (9202878) **8.15 Thunderbirds** (r). (Ceefax) (5690897)
9.05 FILM: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday (1954, b/w). Another in the Jacques Tati season (1972675)
10.30 FILM: National Velvet (1944) starring Elizabeth Taylor in the classic Oscar-winner directed by Clarence Brown. (Ceefax) (31743)
12.30 The Rich Tradition. Lent and Easter food (64830)
1.00 Gordon T Gopher (r) (44865052)
1.10 FILM: An American in Paris (1951). Musical starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. Directed by Vincent Minnelli (99876694)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **A Desperate Fortune** (r) (9781168)
3.45 Carols from Devon (r) (4646052) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4634217)
4.00 Today's the Day. The final (s) (859)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (743)
5.00 Esther. Studio discussion series (s) (2472)
5.30 All in the Mind. Logic quiz show (s) (323) **6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons** (r). (Ceefax) (967304) **6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased).** Vintage detective series (779507)
7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music (s) (708033)

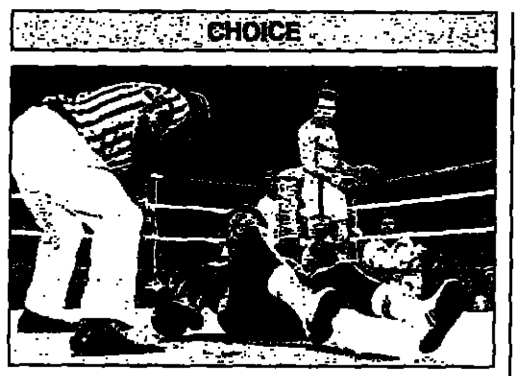


Charles Aznavour in festive voice (7.30pm)

7.30 Christmas in Vienna 1994. Tim Rice introduces a concert of classic Christmas songs performed by Placido Domingo, Charles Aznavour and Norwegian singer Sissel Krykjebo (s) (42859)
8.30 CHOICE **More Front Gardens** (Ceefax) (s) (4061)
9.00 CHOICE **Rumble in the Jungle** (Ceefax) (718878)
9.45 Funky Black Shorts: Pakis Go Home. Two school chums have a knack of extricating themselves from most sticky situations (r) (s) (856965)
10.00 Have I Got News for You. Angus Deayton, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton with Kelvin MacKenzie and Alexei Sayle (s) (55694)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax)(517762)
11.15 Fantasy Football with guests Jimmy Tarbuck and Delia Smith (s) (715755)
11.45 Parkinson Meets Ali (r) (745878)
12.30 FILM: The Set-Up (1949, b/w) starring Robert Ryan and George Tobias. A cynical boxing manager agrees that his man will throw his next fight. Directed by Robert Wise (7111892) **1.40 Weather** (7538786)

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CHOICE



George Foreman and Muhammad Ali (BBC2, 9.00pm)

The Rumble in the Jungle
BBC2, 9.00pm

The punch-up between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Zaire 20 years ago had the ringside commentator, Harry Carpenter, beside himself. "This is the most amazing fight I have ever seen!" roared the BBC's Mr Boxing, and he had seen a few. Harry was not exaggerating. Foreman was odds-on favourite, a 25-year-old with an awesome punch, unbeaten in 40 fights. Ali was 32, overweight and out of condition. The bravado was still there ("I'm more famous than Jesus") but good judges feared that a once great boxer would be battered and humiliated. A pulsating documentary recalls not only the fight and its unbelievable outcome but also the strange goings-on which preceded it. Michael Parkinson's famous interview with Ali, which took place in the same year, is at 11.45pm.

More Front Gardens
BBC2, 8.30pm

The trouble with Garry and Emily Leister's front garden is that it slopes steeply up to the road and has been used a rubbish dump for four years. And the soil is thin and chalky. Emily's dream is to turn this mess into a cottage garden. The task of realising it falls to Christopher Masson, a designer from New Zealand. Unusually for this series, he does not start by ripping out the lawn and replacing it with dreary gravel. On the contrary the lawn becomes the centrepiece. The slope is overcome with clever terracing. Emily stocks up at the garden centre and, several months and unspecified hours of hard labour later, the rubbish tip has been transformed. The programme is coy about cost, though the bricklaying alone comes to £4,000.

Short Stories: Black Cabs
Channel 4, 8.00pm

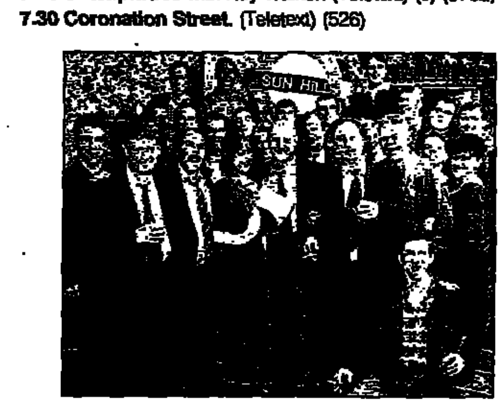
Vince runs the A-Team, which has nothing to do with the television show but is a cab company in north London. Vince and his drivers are black and so are most of their customers. Operating in one of the few boroughs without a Tube service, the A-team is a valuable asset for the community. Vince controls it from a cramped office above a shoe shop, but dreams of having a fleet of cars working the whole of London. Meanwhile he and his staff must deal with realities, such as muggers and fare-dodgers. One of the drivers, Emmanuel, is a young accountant who cannot get any other job. Another, Lloyd, used to be a sheet metal worker. Ruppert Gabriel's unpretentious film is often revealing about life in the black community.

Baadasss TV
Channel 4, 11.00pm

The flamboyant rap artist and actor, Ice-T, made a name for himself on Channel 4 this year with an idiosyncratic guide to "blaxploitation" movies. His latest excursion into black popular culture concerns television. With the singer Andrea Oliver as co-host he mounts a tour of the quirky and the outrageous. The items include an interview with Nichelle Nichols, who played Lieutenant Uhura in *Star Trek*, and features her ground-breaking interracial kiss with Captain Kirk. Also featured are the forthright comedian Millie Jackson and the singer Wayne Jackson, a former choirboy who had a song banned from the airwaves because it was too naughty. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON/LWT

6.00am GMTV (6717168)
9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man (r) (8029168) **9.50 James Bond Junior** (r) (1848304)
10.15 Bananas in Pyjamas (8434912) **10.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (1684435) **10.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (2034976)
10.30 FILM: Always Remember I Love You (1990) starring Patty Duke Astin and Stephen Dorff. A teenager's discovery that he is adopted leads to a corrupt lawyer and a stolen baby ring. Directed by Michael Miller (15738385) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5688679)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (8884781)
12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (8869472) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (53260588)
1.55 The Chrystal Rose Show (s) (80701217) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) **2.50 Take the High Road** (7284679)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (6369897) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (6368168)
3.30 FILM: Disney's Ride a Wild Pony (1976). Children's tale set in the Australian outback about a wild pony who becomes the subject of a bitter ownership battle between a poor farmer's son and a crippled rich girl. Directed by Don Chaffey (747255)
5.10 Caron Keating's After 5 Christmas Special. Festive fun with China Black, Shakin' Stevens and Gary Wilmot. (Teletext) (3245520)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) (973859)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (954830)
6.25 London Tonight with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (300526)
7.00 Catchphrase with Roy Walker. (Teletext) (s) (9762)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (526)

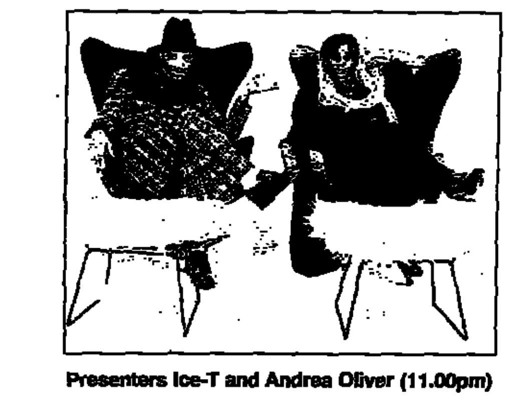


Sun Hill has its Christmas party (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Stuffed. Ackland and Quinnan are led on a wild goose chase. (Teletext) (8410)
8.30 FILM: Police Academy 5 — Assignment Miami Beach (1988). Bubba Smith and David Graf star in this slapstick comedy about a group of incompetent policemen. Directed by Alan Myerson (36588)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (42120)
10.30 Richard Littlejohn's Christmas Offensive. Festive entertainment and chat (44345965)
12.10am London Tonight (Teletext) (2468415)
12.20 The Spirit of Cuba. Patrick Lichfield and his entourage of technicians and models travel around Cuba shooting the 1994 Unipart Calendar (1303366)
1.15 McCloud: McCloud Meets Dracula. The cowboy detective goes in search of a vampire (r) (484989)
2.45 FILM: Warning Sign (1985) starring Sam Waterston and Kathleen Quinlan. A vial of gene-altering bacterium, which attacks the nervous system and turns people into psychotic killers, is accidentally released in a secret research laboratory. Directed by Hal Barwood (758250)
4.35 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (58438298)
5.05 The New Scooby Doo Movies (9361637)
5.55 ITN Morning News (9546057). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Terrytoons. Classic cartoon series (7975101)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (95859)
9.00 Pugwall (r) (69897) **9.30 Spacecats** (r) (88410)
10.00 Prostars (r) (5975236) **10.25 Batman** (Teletext) (1639897) **10.50 The Adventures of Super Mario Brothers** (r) (9217236)
11.05 Tintin (r) (9160965) **11.30 Kelly** (r) (2830)
12.00 Present Spirits. A family inherit a huge Georgian house, with one or two sitting tenants (s) (49033)
12.30pm Sesame Street (12694)
1.30 Super Trolls. Animation (80724168)
1.55 Short Tall Story. An animated parable (85369120)
2.00 FILM: City Under the Sea (1965) starring Vincent Price as the leader of a band of ageless smugglers who live in an undersea city. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (843878)
3.35 Monster Maker. A teenager obsessed with movie monsters meets the best monster maker in showbusiness (r) (1500859)
4.25 Fifteen to One: Grand Final with William G. Stewart. (Teletext) (s) (3662217)
5.05 FILM: Jules Verne's Rocket to the Moon (1967) starring Terry-Thomas and Lionel Jeffries as Victorian rogues who attempt to sabotage a rocket to the moon. With Burl Ives. Directed by Don Sharp. (Teletext) (90023830)
6.50 Creature Comforts. The now famous plasticine zoo animals talk of their plight (r) (807743)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (152236)
7.50 Black Christmas: Shooting Stars with the London Community Gospel Choir (s) (316236)
8.00 CHOICE **Black Christmas: Short Stories: Black Cabs.** (Teletext) (s) (6052)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (2859)
9.00 Ellen. American sitcom. (Teletext) (s) (1965)
9.30 Jo Brand Through the Christmas Cakehole. The controversial comic presents her own brand of stand-up humour. (Teletext) (s) (553502)
10.15 Clive Anderson Talks Back to Peter Cook (r) (s) (390897)



Presenters Ice-T and Andrea Oliver (11.00pm)

11.00 CHOICE **Black Christmas: Baadasss TV** (s) (6410)
11.30 The Word. Anarchic magazine series presented by Terry Christian, Dani Behr and Jasmine Dottiwala (s) (7069912)
12.35am Beavis and Butthead Christmas Special. The diabolical duo murder some favourite Christmas songs (s) (3135908)
1.05 FILM: The Doctor and the Devils (1985) starring Timothy Dalton and Jonathan Pryce in this atmospheric chiller based on the legend of the 19th-century anatomist and his grisly involvement with bodysnatchers Burke and Hare. Directed by Freddie Francis (s) (999160)
2.45 FILM: Sweeney Todd, Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1936, b/w) starring Tod Slaughter as the homicidal barber who made a tidy profit from selling his homemade pies. Directed by George King (3943347). Ends at **3.55**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 9.50am C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **10.30** Disney's Snowball Express (56996965) 12.15pm-12.20 Warner Cartoon (9098696) **1.55** The Young Doctors (35362033) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (1116656) **3.30** Disney's Monkeys, Go Home! (747255) **5.10-5.40** Weekend (3245520) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (300526) **10.40** Tobruk (86323588) **12.40am** Lone Wolf McQuade (812095) **2.40** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (7900095) **3.10** Hollywood Uncensored (6980057) **4.30** The New Music (7708892) **5.30-5.55** Scooby Doo (9576236)

CENTRAL
As London except: 9.50 C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **1.55** A Country Practice (35362033) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (1116656) **3.30** Disney's Monkeys, Go Home! (747255) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Games and Videos (3245520) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (300526) **10.40** Rescue - Special Report (270762) **11.10** Breakheart Pass (584385) **12.55am** Target Risk (1771521) **2.15-3.10** The Big E (5961637)

GRANADA
As London except: 9.50 C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **10.30-12.20** Always Remember I Love You (15738385) **12.55** Shortland Street (8869472) **1.25** Home and Away (53260588) **1.55** Deck the Hall (2994168) **2.50-3.20** Gardeners' Diary (7284679) **3.30** The Capture of Grizzly Adams (747255) **5.10-5.40** Take the High Road (3245520) **6.25** Granada Tonight Special (376435) **6.50** Kick Off (809101) **7.00-7.30** Catchphrase (9762) **10.40** A Different Way Home (370762) **11.10** Celebration (129656) **12.10am** Coach (8319182) **12.40** Lone Wolf McQuade (812095) **2.40** Cinema, Cinema (7900095) **3.10-4.30** Hollywood Uncensored

HTV WEST
As London except: 9.50 C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **1.55** Take the High Road (80701217) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (3537675) **3.30** Monkeys, Go Home! (747255) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (3245520) **5.55** Home and Away (645439) **6.25-7.00** HTV News (300526) **10.30** Youngblood (79702897) **12.40am** Lone Wolf McQuade (812095) **2.40** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (7900095) **3.10-4.30** Hollywood Uncensored (6980057)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 10.25-10.30 HTV News (2034976) **6.25-7.00** Wales Tonight

MERIDIAN
As London except: 9.50am C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **10.30** Disney's Snowball Express (57663762) **12.10pm-12.20** Warner Cartoon (1557694) **1.55** A Country Practice (35362033) **2.20** Take the High Road (32990878) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (7284679) **3.30** Disney's Monkeys, Go Home! (747255) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (3245520) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (76875) **10.40** Sid-Time (370762) **11.10** Wild Geese II (90274236) **1.30am** Shattered Spirits (378637) **3.10** Live on Stage

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 9.50 C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **10.30-12.20** Miles To Go (15738385) **1.55** Wish You Were Here...? (80701217) **2.25-2.55** Gardeners' Diary (32989149) **3.30** Disney's Monkeys, Go Home! (747255) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (3245520) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (76875) **10.40** The Thomas Crown Affair (86323588) **12.40am** Lone Wolf McQuade

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 9.50 C.O.P.S (1848304) **10.15-10.20** Cartoon Time (8434912) **10.30** Snowball Express (57663762) **12.10pm-12.20** Cartoon Time (1557694) **1.55** A Country Practice (35362033) **2.20-3.10** Murder, She Wrote (3547052) **3.30** Monkeys, Go Home! (747255) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (3245520) **5.55-7.00** Calendar 10.40 **The Spirit of Christmas** (996588) 11.40 **Warning Sign** (477656) 1.30am **Finders Keepers** (378637) 3.10-5.30 **The Adventures of Pinocchio** (96759434)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (95859) **9.00** Pugwall (69897) **9.30** Space Cats (88410) **10.00** Pro-stars (5975236) **10.25** Batman (1639897) **10.50** The Adventures Of Super Mario Brothers (9217236) **11.05** Tintin (9160965) **11.30** Kelly (2830) **12.00pm** Present Spirits (49033) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (99526) **1.00** Night And Day (35086743) **3.20** Conquest Of Space (7571410) **4.30** 5 Pump (8084149) **5.20** Fifteen To One (1519526) **6.00** Newyddion (519548) **6.20** Heno (390149) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (7304) **7.30** Gymau Heb Ffiniau Nadolig (80255) **8.30** Newyddion (912694) **8.50** Cefn Gwlad Lloyd Y'Sweep' (814120) **9.30** Beat That Einstein (79762) **10.00** Brookside (40762) **10.30** Jo Brand (502830) **11.15** Creature Comforts (554748) **11.30** The Word (706912) **12.35am** Beavis And Butt-head (3135908) **1.05** Doctor And The Devils (999160) **2.45** Sweeney Todd (5019705)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (31833304) **8.45** Cartoons (5512101) **9.30** Card Sharks (31912) **10.00** Concentration (1584526) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (7094507) **10.30** Candid Camera (83491) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (38588) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (74743) **12.30pm** E Street (15588) **1.00** Falcon Crest (81453) **2.00** The Far Pavilions (50061) **3.00** The Dukes of Hazzard (3800052) **3.50** The DJ Kat Show (5185120) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6043) **6.00** Gamesworld (5746) **6.30** Blockbusters (1878) **7.00** E Street (1762) **7.30** M*A*S*H (5502) **8.00** The Andrew Newton Hypnotic Experience (1110) **8.30** Coppers (6217) **9.00** Chicago Hope (51304) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (54491) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (393304) **11.45** Chances (201588) **12.45am** Barney Miller (79095) **1.15-1.45** Night Court (76906)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (7703743) **9.30** Worldwide (42410) **10.30** ABC Nightline (81033) **11.00** News and Business (121236) **1.30pm** CBS News (39502) **2.30** Travel Destinations (35385) **3.30** Special Report (9656) **4.00** News and Business (38965) **5.00** Live at Five (8675) **6.30** Talkback (46168) **8.00** News and Business (21859) **9.30** *FT* Reports (71491) **11.30** CBS News (58651) **12.30am** ABC News (93705) **1.30** Talkback (59869) **2.30** *FT* Reports (19637) **3.30** Special Report (14182) **4.30** CBS News (79960) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (49298)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (6113762) **10.00 Mister Ten Percent** (1966) (19304) **12.00 Move Over, Darling** (1963) (10694) **2.00pm Swing Shift** (1984) (45743) **4.00 Journey to the Far Side of the Sun** (1969) (5965) **6.00 American Anthem** (1986) (65507) **8.00 The King's Whore** (1990) (60052) **10.00 Universal Soldier** (1992) (915607) **11.45 A Better Tomorrow** (1986) (994033) **1.20am Romantic Comedy** (1983) (930385) **3.00 Passion's Flower** (1990) (60163) **4.30-6.00 Mister Ten Percent** (1966): As 10am (74415)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00am The Magnificent Ambersons (1942) (29743) **8.00 It Came from Outer Space** (1953) (47061) **9.30-11.55 Heaven's Gate** (1980) (424675)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am The Innocents (1961) (69236) **8.00 Heathcliff — The Movie** (1985) (1556526) **9.15 The Canterville Ghost** (1990) (9607217) **10.05 The National Health** (1973) (75808120) **12.00 Tarzan's New York Adventure** (1942) (8169255) **1.15pm Alice in Wonderland** (1988) (3876859) **2.10 Exploits at West Poley** (1985) (8831323) **3.15 Heathcliff — The Movie:** As 8am (4125726) **4.30 The Canterville Ghost:** As 9.15am (2040267) **5.20 Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes** (1984) (50430976) **7.30 The Movie Show** (3472) **8.00 National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1** (1993) (77512781) **9.35 My Cousin Vinny** (1992) (123897) **11.35 Ricochet** (1991) (367830) **1.20am Running Delilah** (1992) (3387434) **2.50 The Fatal Image** (1990) (919434) **4.25-6.00 The National Health** (1973): As 10.05am (713573)

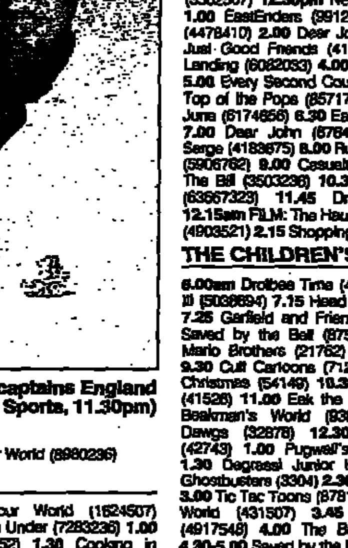
● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Soccer News (4014323) **7.15** WWF Action Zone (868762) **8.15** Soccer News (7911033) **8.30** The A to Z of Sport (29762) **9.30** Aerobics (20507) **10.00** Shooting (85410) **11.00** Get Your Handicap Down (58743) **11.30** Rugby Union (59472) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (90878) **12.30pm** Golf: The Cannon Shoot-Out (43526) **2.30** Rugby (3255) **3.00** Golf and All its Glory (60588) **4.00** American Sports (72323) **5.00** NBA Action (3830) **5.30** Soccer Magazine (4743) **6.00** Soccer Weekend (28994) **7.00** Cricket Preview (138491) **9.30** Bootroom (28168) **10.30** Soccer Weekend (40255) **11.30** Cricket, Live: Australia v England (1431946)

SKY SPORTS 2
8.00pm Rugby Union, Live (7880255) **8.30** Golf and All its Glory (4898830) **9.00-12.00** NBA Basketball Live (5445149)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Step Aerobics (81694) **8.00** Eurotennis (13491) **9.00** Triathlon (98694) **10.30** Freestyle Skiing (94694) **11.00** Eurofun (83439) **11.30** Snowboarding (84168) **12.00** Adventure (38526) **1.00pm** Figure Skating (53923) **3.00** Dancing (55656) **4.00** Duathlon (67491) **5.00** Truck Racing (8526) **5.30** Formula One (12946) **6.30** News (7584) **7.00** Power Lifting (84656) **8.00** Live Boxing: British Bantamweight Title (97120) **10.00** Wrestling (16255) **11.00** International Motorsports (86507) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (53415)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (1614120) **8.30** Peyton Place (1613491) **9.00** As the World Turns (8668410) **10.00** Guiding Light (8860472)



Mike Atherton captains England v Australia (Sky Sports, 11.30pm)

11.00-12.00 Another World (8980236)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Discover Your World (1624507) **12.30pm** Kids Down Under (7283236) **1.00** Dive Miami (8984052) **1.30** Cooking in America (7282507) **2.00** Ski Perfect (4808859) **2.30** Hong Kong (3962781) **3.00** Discover Your World (4819694) **3.30** The Way of Life (3974526) **4.00** Travel Review (3953033) **4.30** Kids Down Under (3959217) **5.00** Hong Kong (4820439) **5.30-6.00** Cooking in America (3973897)

TLC
9.00am The Joy of Painting (3580385) **9.30** Madeleine Cooks (4473965) **10.00** Robert's Story (8307762) **10.30** Only Human (4427491) **11.10** Mirror Mirror (33354410) **11.30** The Buzz (6086859) **12.00** Are Mothers Really Necessary? (3500149) **12.30pm** Understanding Violence (4477781) **1.00** Madeleine Cooks (1712912) **1.30** Painting (4476052) **2.00** Parents Talking (6751491) **2.30** Discovering Psychology (4193052) **3.00** Gardens (6770526) **3.30-4.00** The Secret Life of Machines (4105897)

UK GOLD
7.00am The Sullivans (4067089) **7.30** Neighbours (5512174) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3592120) **8.30** EastEnders (3591491) **9.00** The Bill (3582743) **9.30** All Creatures Great And Small (6078507) **10.30** Casualty (46763052) **11.35** The Sullivans (11185323) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (3502507) **12.30pm** Neighbours (4488439) **1.00** EastEnders (9912930) **1.30** The Bill (4478410) **2.00** Dear John (6760149) **2.30** Just Good Friends (4195410) **3.00** Knots Landing (6082033) **4.00** Dynasty (6001168) **5.00** Every Second Counts (8466965) **5.35** Top of the Pops (8571762) **5.55** Terry and June (6174656) **6.30** EastEnders (4167491) **7.00** Dear John (6764965) **7.30** Mornin' Serge (4183675) **8.00** Rumpole of the Bailey (5906762) **9.00** Casualty (5926526) **10.00** The Bill (3503236) **10.30** Top of the Pops (63667323) **11.45** Dr Who (1429743) **12.15am** FILM: The Haunting (1963): Thriller (4903521) **2.15** Shopping at Night (4040892)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Droibee Time (47007) **7.00** Ratkan III (5038694) **7.15** Head to Head (3039507) **7.25** Garfield and Friends (7197101) **7.55** Saved by the Bell (8759656) **8.30** Super Mario Brothers (21762) **9.00** Zoo (12014) **9.30** Cult Cartoons (71255) **10.00** Cosmic Christmas (54149) **10.30** Round the Twist (41526) **11.00** Eek the Cat (92101) **11.30** Beakman's World (93830) **12.00** Stunt Dawgs (32878) **12.30pm** Bots Master (42743) **1.00** Pugwall's Summer (83149) **1.30** Degrassi Junior High (41014) **2.00** Ghostbusters (3304) **2.30** SuperDave (8965) **3.00** Tic Tac Toons (8781323) **3.15** Bobby's World (431507) **3.45** Head to Head (4917548) **4.00** The Bots Master (9217) **4.30-5.00** Saved by the Bell (8101)

NICKELODEON
7.00am Nick's Christmas Cracker (75033) **7.30** Denver the Last Dinosaur (94168) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (88033) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (87304) **9.00** Nick's Christmas Pick (78656) **9.30** Clarissa Explains It All (28149) **10.00** Grimmy (45304) **10.30** Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (64726) **11.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (58385) **11.30** Ren and Stimpy (57014) **12.00** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (81120) **12.30pm** Galaxy High School (22965) **1.00** Doug (74304) **1.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks (21236) **2.00** Denver the Last Dinosaur (3520) **2.30** Speed Racer (1897) **3.00** Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (9255) **3.30** Hey Dude! (3014) **4.00** Nick's Christmas Pick (2149) **4.30** Doug (1033) **5.00** Clarissa Explains It All (8697) **6.00** Grimmy (2526) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark?

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Discovery (6741014) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (4452472) **7.00** Shark Wars (5895656) **8.00** Expeditions (5904304) **9.00** Treasure Islands (6098694) **9.30** Mush! Mush! (4454217) **10.00** High Five (3501878) **10.30** Ambulance! (3510526) **11.00-12.00** Red Star (1716209)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Monster from Green Hell (1958) (5410656) **1.30pm** The Donny and Marie Show (4470878) **2.00** The Avengers (8902217) **3.00** My Three Sons (6787052) **3.30** The Beverly Hillbillies (4192323) **4.00** FILM: Thunder in Carolina (1960) (6778168) **6.00** The Protectors (4198507) **6.30** Edgar Wallace (4998472) **7.30** Saber of London (4178743) **8.00** The Avengers (5991830) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (5911694) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Rasputin — The Mad Monk (1966) (6076472)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (2837410) **7.00** Living (8435120) **8.00** OK2 Talk Feelings (1027472) **8.15** Everyday Yoga (1040323) **8.30** Women (2371830) **9.00** American Pie (7832830) **9.35** Definition (6633694) **10.00** Trivia Trap (9384897) **10.30** Susan Powter (2391694) **11.00** Young and Restless (8443304) **12.00** Fashion (1991526) **12.35pm** Kilroy (9287781) **1.30** Going to Pot (7375101) **2.00** Agony Hour (9385526) **3.00** Living (7762878) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (17426526) **4.00** Infatuation UK (5772507) **4.30** Definition (18789304) **4.55** Eating Out with John Tovey (4849526) **5.30** Kate and Allie (5752743) **6.00** Material World (5759656) **6.30** New Mr and Mrs Show (5773236) **7.00** Living (9111120) **8.00** Young and Restless (9137168) **9.00** FILM: The Choice (1987) A young woman discovers she is pregnant (90561526) **10.50** Short Shorts (1362168) **11.00** Susan Powter (1561052) **11.30-12.00** Infatuation UK (9373781)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm The Adventures of Tintin (4656) **5.30** Blade Warriors (34255) **6.30** Through the Keyhole (9556) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (7120) **7.30** The Wonder Years (9830) **8.00** Road to Avonlea (33946) **9.00** Moonlighting (46410) **10.00** Family Catchphrase (33507) **10.30** The Adventures of Tintin (42255) **11.00** Lou Grant (93526) **12.00** Rhoda (56255) **12.30pm** Big Brother Jake (73705) **1.00** GP (17347) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (51279) **2.00** Moonlighting (17521) **3.00** Lou Grant (48540) **4.00** Rhoda (67989) **4.30-5.00** Big Brother Jake (21540)

MTV
5.00am Wildside (41786) **6.30** The Grind (65255) **7.00** Wildside (54762) **8.00** VJ Ingo (258014) **11.00** Soul (74491) **12.00** Greatest Hits (63236) **1.00pm** The Afternoon Mix (945089) **3.30** Coca-Cola Report (7167061) **3.45** Cinematic (2117566) **4.00** News (6864965) **4.15** 3 from 1 (6854588) **4.30** Dial MTV (78591) **5.00** Music Non-Stop (5149) **6.00** The 1994 Video Music Awards (1339897) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (64965) **10.00** Report (999615) **10.15** Cinematic (444520) **10.30** News (812304) **10.45** 3 from 1 (817859) **11.00** Party Zone (83878) **1.00am** Soul (28502) **2.00** The Grind (78095) **2.30** Videos (471873)

VH-1
7.00am Wreckage (8983323) **9.00** Café (8365830) **12.00** The Bridge (3325014) **1.30pm** Ten of the Best (9775762) **2.30** Heart and Soul (9423830) **3.30** Into the Music (8392679) **6.00** Prime Cuts (7260385) **7.00** For You (7200830) **8.00** Soul (7226878) **9.00** Ten of the Best (7206014) **10.00** Saturday Night Live (1627694) **10.30** Old Grey Whistle Test (1603014) **11.00** Around (8970859) **12.00** The Nightly (9216989) **2.00am** Prime Cuts (4505365) **3.00** Soul (7943415) **4.00** Ten of the Best (9260298) **5.00-7.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE
Country music from **6am** to **7pm**. **5.00** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00** Big Ticket

TV ASIA
6.00am Persian Dawn (94743) **7.00** Asian Morning (52410) **8.30** Bunyaad (25588) **9.00** Satta Se Patta (914168) **12.00** Ghar (58304) **1.00pm** Serial (70675) **1.30** Dashi (78168) **2.00** Hindi FILM (898656) **5.00** TVA and You (4410) **5.30-6.00** Bunyaad (6507) **7.00** Zabaan Sambhal Ke (1236) **7.30** Fashion (2762) **8.00** News (7656) **8.30** Waqt (9491) **9.00** Hindi FILM (650323) **12.00** Asian Morning (251095) **1.35am** Sight and Sound

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Lady in the Lake (1946) (96803859) **9.00 Dark Passage** (1947) (79532476) **11.45 Space Ghost Coast to Coast: Chips** (98910255) **12.00 No Blade of Grass** (1970) (36975499) **1.45am Mystery Street** (1950) (95014415) **3.25-5.00 Talk About a Stranger** (1952) (76387347)

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SPORT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 1994

Melbourne pitch offers England encouragement on eve of second Test

Atherton finds grounds for optimism

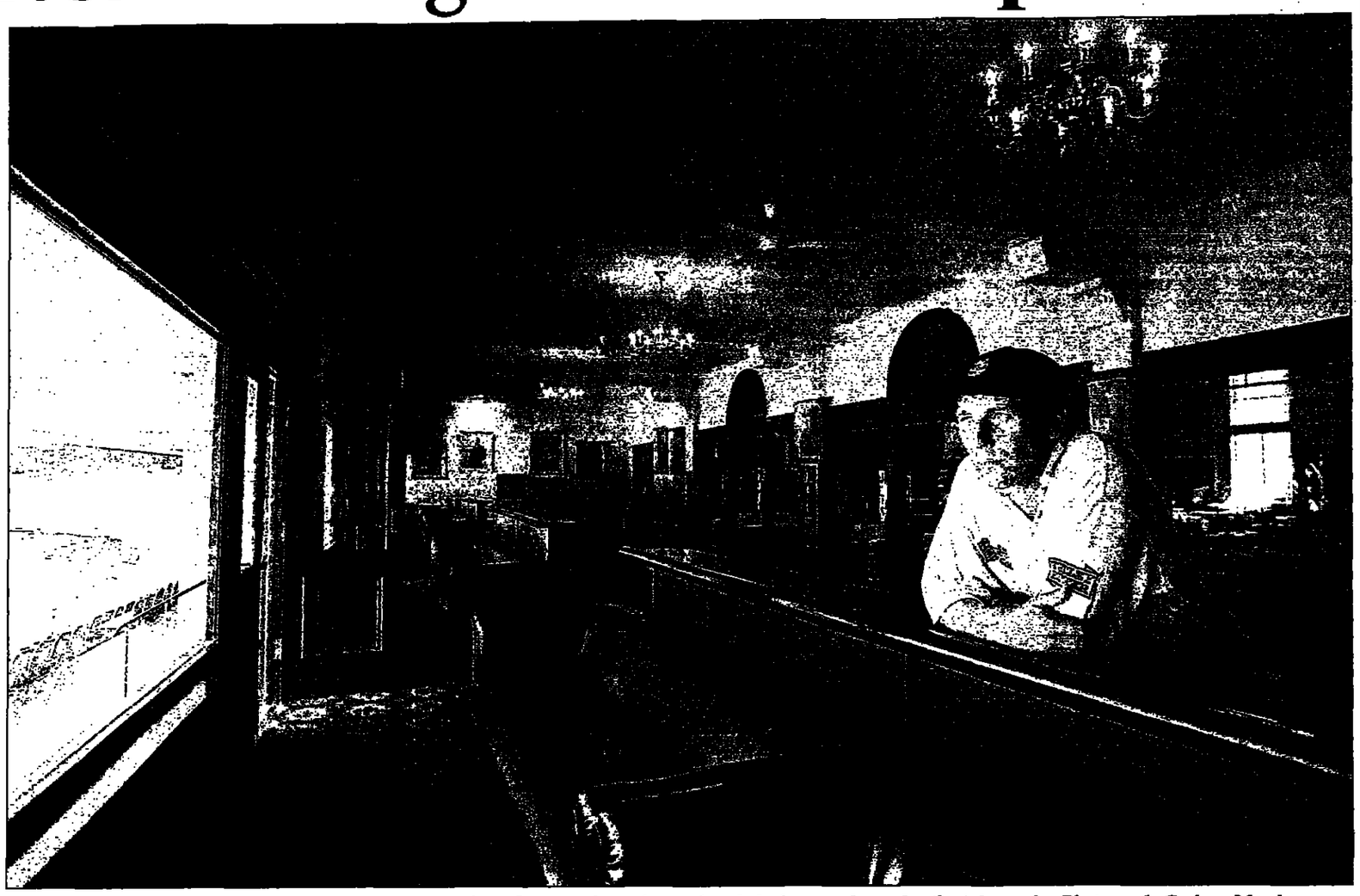
FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

CHRISTMAS Day here, for the England cricket team, traditionally involves a subdued sense of anticipation over the Test match that starts the next morning. The emotions will be more sharply defined this year, for the second Test begins early. Come Sunday, presents and party hats could seem utterly incongruous.

The curious starting day of Christmas Eve is designed to ensure some weekend cricket in both the next two Tests. Its effect, however, is to focus starkly upon the single day of play before the Christmas Day recess. It is a show of its own and potentially the main event of the tour. One down with four to play is not yet cause for mourning, but, if England forget their lines tomorrow, the Ashes will be quickly beyond them.

Michael Atherton, the captain, was relaxed and amiable yesterday, but his expression narrowed when the task at hand was discussed. "It is a very important game and we need to start it well," he said. "In Brisbane, we lost the match in the first two days. A draw, at least, here is paramount to our prospects because it is hard to see us winning three Tests straight off to take back the Ashes. But I am confident we can win this one."

Field of dreams 29
Match abandoned 29



Atherton, the England captain, in the long room at the MCG yesterday as he ponders their chances of squaring the Ashes series. Photograph: Graham Morris

Brave words, and not entirely empty ones. England's hobbling progress around Australia is scant evidence for such faith and they have it in them to surrender this game, like so many others, with scarcely a whimper of protest. Yet, for all that, events have begun to fall their way in recent days.

The lengthy casualty list has started to clear: the match against Queensland was won when it might have been embarrassingly lost; the form of the Australian batsmen in State cricket has begun to raise anxious questions; and, last, though perhaps most significant of all, the pitch at the Melbourne Cricket Ground is as different from that on which the first Test was lost as can be imagined.

It rained for 12 hours here on Wednesday and, yesterday, the Test strip was damp, green and patchy. Two days of sun will doubtless dry it and Tony Ware, the groundsman, will risk the wrath of his nation unless he shaves off most of the grass; but at present it is a surface to delight any seam bowler worthy of the name.

As he stared with interest at the pitch in the sunshine yesterday, Alec Bedser, who certainly fell into that category, could not resist comparing it with the one he had to bowl on here, 48 years ago. "That was almost black and didn't have a blade of grass on it," he said. "It didn't do anything for the bowlers, but even if they take the grass off this, it must do something."

What it will do is compromise selection policies. Atherton said that England would be very reluctant to go into the game without a specialist spin bowler "unless the circumstances were quite exceptional", but an all-seam attack would be a dangerous temptation if he was seeking to bowl first. Australia, too, might consider shelving their proven formula of two seam and two spin bowlers, and omit Tim May.

They will not, naturally, give a moment's thought to Shane Warne's place. Pitches do not tend to bother Warne, who can turn the ball on any surface and who, in any case, has such a variety of deliveries and angles that many a batsman is bamboozled before the ball has left his hand, let alone touched the ground.

The first of Warne's headline performances was on this ground two years ago, when he took seven for 52 against West Indies. Most people in this, his home, town, believe it to be preordained that their hero will win this game for Australia, too. Atherton, quite rightly, dismisses any suggestion that his players are paranoid about Warne, but only a fool would dispute that he is the vital difference between the teams.

Philip Tufnell, the best slow bowler England can offer in opposition, did not practise yesterday and was treated for a minor hamstring strain. He was expected to be fully fit for selection, however, and with Craig White and Joey Benjamin ruled out — in White's case for the third Test, too — and Mark Ilott already preparing to join up with the A team tour in India, the attack virtually picks itself if it is accepted that Darren Gough should not be risked.

Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, arrived here late last night and, as ever, will have his own forthright ideas to advance when he joins the tour selectors. Gough is very much his baby, a fellow Yorkshireman he promoted to great effect, but it makes no sense for a fast bowler to start a crucial Test with a suspect hamstring, as Illingworth must surely agree.

The burden of strike bowling will now fall upon Devon Malcolm, who enjoys celebrity status here on the basis of two match-winning performances at the Oval. This will be his first Test since he bowled out South Africa there on a spectacular Saturday in August and, in Toowoomba earlier this week, he looked encouragingly lean and hungry.

The perennial problem with Malcolm is that his control of line and rhythm operates on a here-today, gone-tomorrow principle. Perversely, this can sometimes work to his advantage. While England are hoping that, on this occasion, Malcolm has more idea than the batsmen, they must also resolve the issue of their own batting order. Atherton is no longer rigid in his belief that Alec Stewart should be his opening partner and the odds are that Graham Gooch will go in first, where he has more chance of playing the type of innings that can shape a match.

Mike Gatting, yesterday sporting plaster covering a bite on one side of his face and the remnants of bruising on the other, is nevertheless fit and ready to hold on to the No 6 position. The last time he played a Test here, eight years ago as captain, England won inside three days to secure the Ashes. Simply keeping them in range would be a satisfactory achievement this time around.

AUSTRALIA (probable): M A Taylor (captain), M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, M G Bevan, S R Waugh, I A Healy, S K Warne, C J McDermott, T B A May, D W Fleming.
ENGLAND (probable): M A Atherton (captain), G A Gooch, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, A J Stewart, M W Gatting, S J Rhodes, P A J DeFreitas, A R C Fraser, P C R Tufnell, D E Malcolm.

Chairman calls on FA to give freedom to top clubs

BY PETER BALL

TWO and a half years after the establishment of the FA Premier League, the old familiar tensions between the Football Association and the professional game are re-surfacing. Yesterday, Sir John Hall, the chairman of Newcastle United, demanded that the Premier League was freed from the FA's control.

"The structure of football at present is more suited to Victorian times," Hall said. "I find it unjust that someone from Oxford, Cambridge, the Army or the Navy should have a vote on my business.

"The FA knows the amateur game and the grass roots better than we do. We should leave them with that. The professional game is in need of professionals."

Whether it is in need of Hall is something that might exercise some of his FA Carling Premiership colleagues as well as the FA. Hall has been the leading advocate of an expansion of the Premier League into two divisions in a closed shop, but although meetings have been taking place, the response has been mixed. Leading clubs like Liverpool, who endorsed the Premier League as a means of gaining a much larger proportion of football's income, are known to have little enthusiasm for cutting what is now a rich cake more thinly.

The appeal for greater control may have a wider appeal. "It emerged from a recent Premier League meeting that there was total exasperation with what we felt was the lack of will by the FA to sit down with us and talk about the changes that are necessary," Hall said. "We approached the FA in June. We wanted to ask them if they would share power. Since then, we have not heard a thing. The professional game needs to be reorganised."

Ironically, it was the Football League's proposal for a greater say in the running of the game which provoked the FA to set up the Premier League. Hall's broadside may be the first sign that their attempt to ride the tiger will be fatal, with a Premier League governed by the elite offering a much greater threat to the FA than the Football League ever did.

Yugoslavia's return, page 30

Tottenham prepared to sell Dumitrescu

ILIE DUMITRESCU, Tottenham Hotspur's Romanian international, is on the transfer list at his own request, according to the club manager, Gerry Francis. "He wants regular first-team football but there is no way I can play everyone. I can understand his frustration," Francis said yesterday.

Dumitrescu lost his place when Francis abandoned the all-out attacking philosophy favoured by his predecessor, Osvaldo Ardiles, to tighten a defence whose cavalier approach was dragging the club towards relegation.

Other Premiership sides have so far shown no interest in signing the player, who cost Tottenham £2.6 million. A transfer abroad may offer the club the best chance of recouping its investment.

The future of Leyton Orient remains in doubt despite the emergence of a white knight after a statement by the chairman, Tony Wood, that he was prepared to sell the club for £5. Phillip Wallace, an Essex businessman, says he cannot guarantee the second division club's survival, although he is negotiating with Wood over a short-term rescue package.

Pugh rejects European league idea

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE concept of a European league for rugby union involving British clubs was squashed by Vernon Pugh yesterday, despite the admitted enthusiasm of leading Welsh clubs for the project.

Instead, the chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union said that clubs might well find their own way back to the kind of fixture lists that existed before the introduction of league rugby to England in 1987 and to Wales in 1990.

"We already have the dichotomy of players at the top level having to spend so much time on rugby and rugby-related matters and yet we want to have an essentially-amateur game," Pugh said. "It would be quite unreasonable to add on another competition to those already existing."

Various marketing agencies have suggested European tournaments over the past decade, and the French came closest to achieving one during the mid-1980s. But Pugh said he could not envisage a pan-European competition for at least three years.

"The movement is the other way," he said. "France are actively looking at reducing the number of matches in their championship and the length of their season. Wales are in favour of a resumption of games between their clubs and those outside Wales and I would expect that to happen initially on a non-competitive basis."

Pugh believes that, when existing league sponsorship arrangements run out, the individual unions may examine the possibility of a programme of cross-border fixtures. "But clubs are not prevented from taking up some of the fixtures which used to exist," he said. "If that can be done, with clubs turning out their best XVs, we will work as hard as we can towards achieving that end."

☐ South Africa's seven matches in Wales during their recently-concluded tour are likely to raise a surplus of £900,000 for the Welsh Rugby Union. This figure falls somewhat below the provisional surplus of £1 million, for which the union budgeted, largely because of the poor attendance at the opening game, against Cardiff.

☐ John Dawes, the former Wales and British Lions captain, has been appointed senior coach at Glamorgan Wanderers, who play in the third division of the Heineken League.

World Cup bid, page 29

I WOULDN'T MIND A HOMELESS PERSON WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS STAYING IN MY FLAT. I'LL ASSESS THEIR PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS AND PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN WHILE THEY REHABILITATE.

I'D PREFER TO MAKE A DONATION SO ST. MUNGO'S CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM.

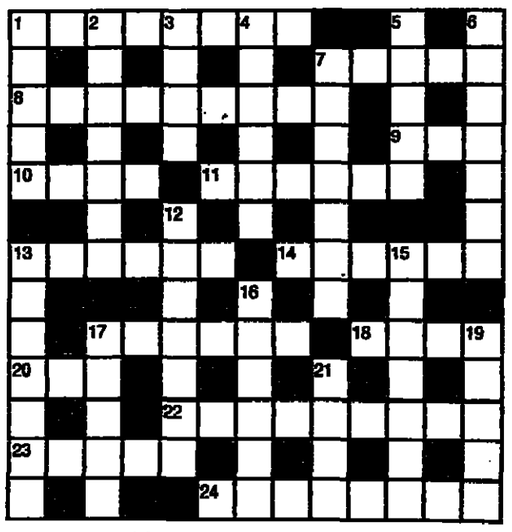
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 352



ACROSS

1 Amorphous (8)
7 Cause to intermingle (5)
8 Hotly pursuing (quarry) (2,4,3)
9 Fish; pat (3)
10 Head-covering; gangster (4)
11 Squirm in agony (6)
13 Outlaw (6)
14 Strongly recommending (6)
17 Real (6)
18 Spade; potato (4)
20 Small flap (3)
22 Eccentricity (9)
23 Gangway (5)
24 Farcical parody (8)

DOWN

1 Whinny (5)
2 Clown (7)
3 Berg opera; a corker (slang) (4)
4 Open (wine) (6)
5 Prim and proper person (5)
6 Skin between toes; strap fabric (7)
7 Enigma (7)
12 Error (7)
13 Groom's aide (4,3)
15 Create good effect (on); emphasise (7)
16 Strip of cloth with slogan (6)
17 Rail at (5)
19 Greyish (pink); unhelpful (answer) (5)
21 Capital of the Ukraine (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 351

ACROSS: 1 Pro tem 5 Demise 8 Warn 9 The cloth 10 Missive 11 Storm 13 Go with a bang 16 Faust 18 Idiotic 21 Paroxysm 22 Hi-fi 23 Gentle 24 Nimble

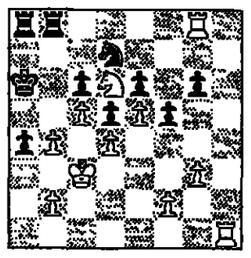
DOWN: 2 Reading 3 Tongs 4 Motivate 5 Deem 6 Militia 7 Sitar 12 Handyman 14 Wash-out 15 Gainful 17 Apace 19 Ogham 20 Pyre

CROSSWORD BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31): **The Times Concise Crosswords** (Books 1 & 2 £5.49 each), Books 3,4,5,6 & NEW Book 7 £4.00 each. **The Times Jumbo Crosswords**: (Books 1 & 2 £5.49 each. Concise Book £5.49). **The Times Crosswords**: (Books 1 to 13 £4.49 each). Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.00 each. **The Sunday Times Crosswords** — (Book 1 £4.49). Books 10,11,12 & NEW Book 13 £4.00 each. **The Sunday Times Concise**: Books 1,2,3 £4.00 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn computers — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to *Alcom Ltd*, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Alekhine - Chajes, Carlsbad 1923. How did White finish off?



Solution, page 30
Raymond Keene, page 6

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JUTKA
a. Armenian chutzpah
b. A one-horse carriage
c. The Languedoc digraph JK

LUFTMENSCH
a. The Israeli airforce
b. A moving staircase
c. An impractical visionary

NANCY DAWSON
a. An effeminate boy
b. A rum and cointreau cocktail
c. A red rose

HOOSHTAH
a. Egyptian chutzpah
b. A shout at a camel
c. The voiced T

Answers on page 30

هكذا من الأصل